

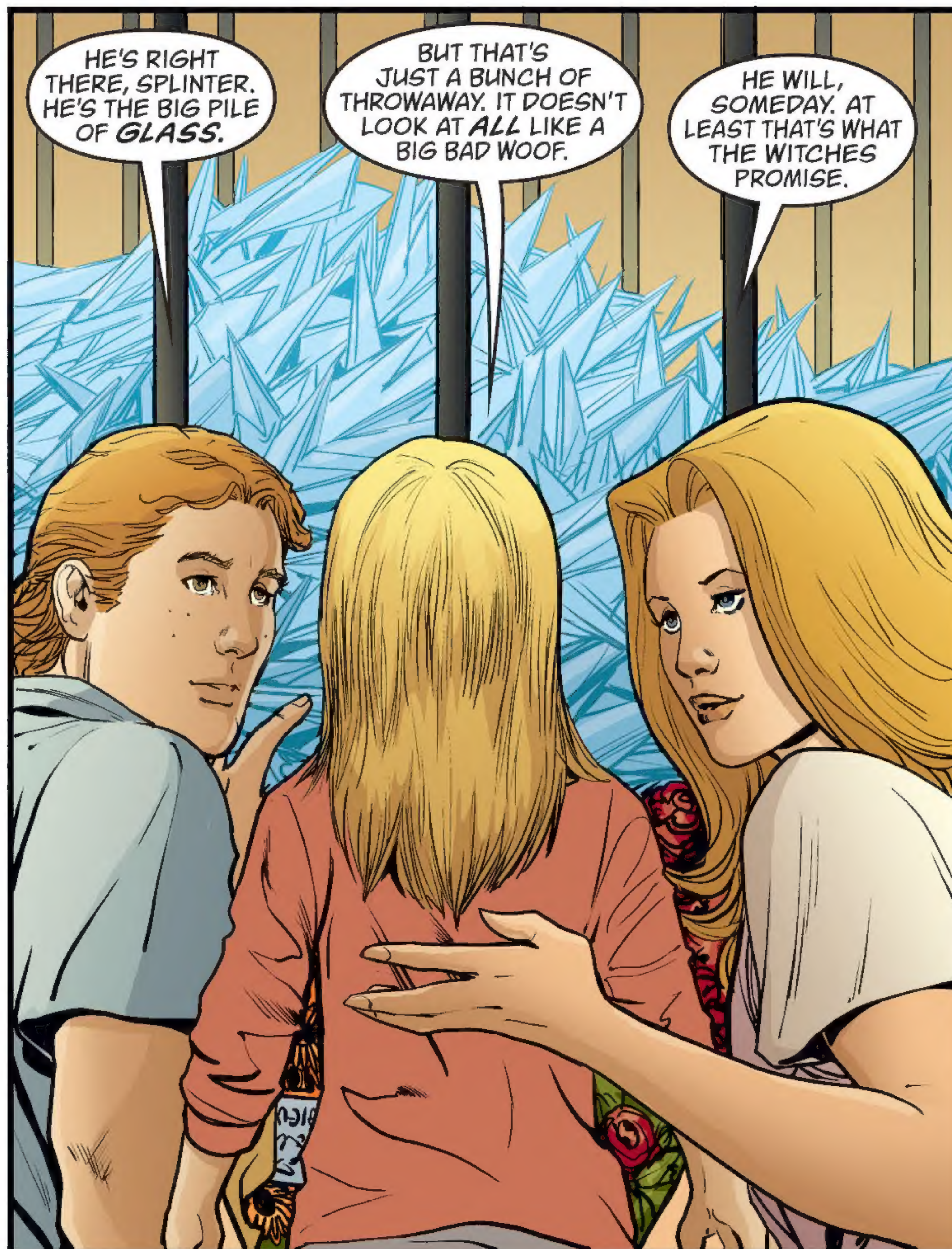
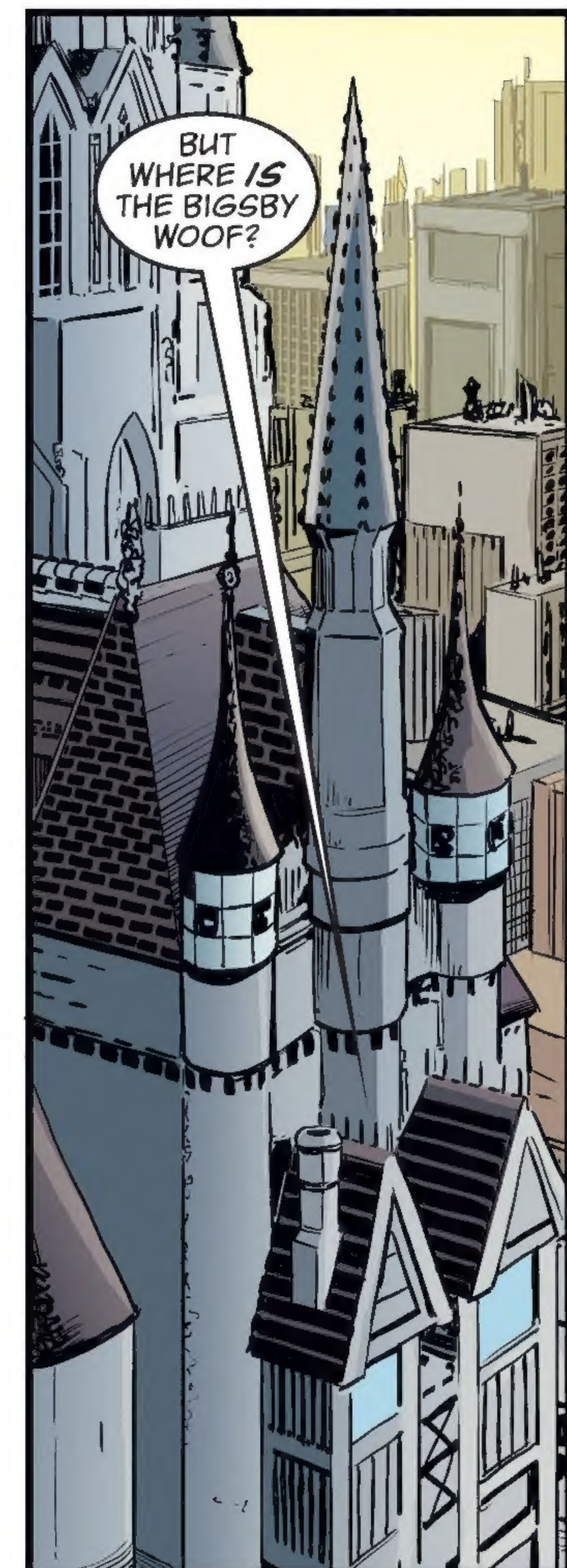
WILLINGHAM • KITSON • ERSKINE

F A B L E S

VERTIGO

130

Aug '13
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mature readers
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JUNEBUG

In the merry month of June, the young daughter of two former wooden children of Geppetto gets a story all her own, if only by virtue of her name.

BILL WILLINGHAM writer/creator BARRY KITSON artist GARY ERSKINE finishes pp 4-11 LEE LOUGHRIDGE colors TODD KLEIN letters
JOÃO RUAS cover GREGORY LOCKARD associate editor SHELLY BOND editor





I DON'T SEE HOW THEY COULD MAKE A PROMISE LIKE THAT.

SOME OF THE PIECES, SURE THEY'RE BIG ENOUGH TO POSSIBLY PUT BACK TOGETHER. IT'LL BE THE TOUGHEST JIGSAW PUZZLE IN HISTORY, BUT AT LEAST IT'S **BARELY** POSSIBLE.

BUT A LOT OF HIM GOT SHATTERED DOWN TO **POWDERED** GLASS, AND SOME OF THAT BLEW AWAY ALREADY.

HOW DO YOU RECOVER POWDER AND GET IT BACK IN EXACTLY THE **RIGHT** SPOT?

MAGIC?

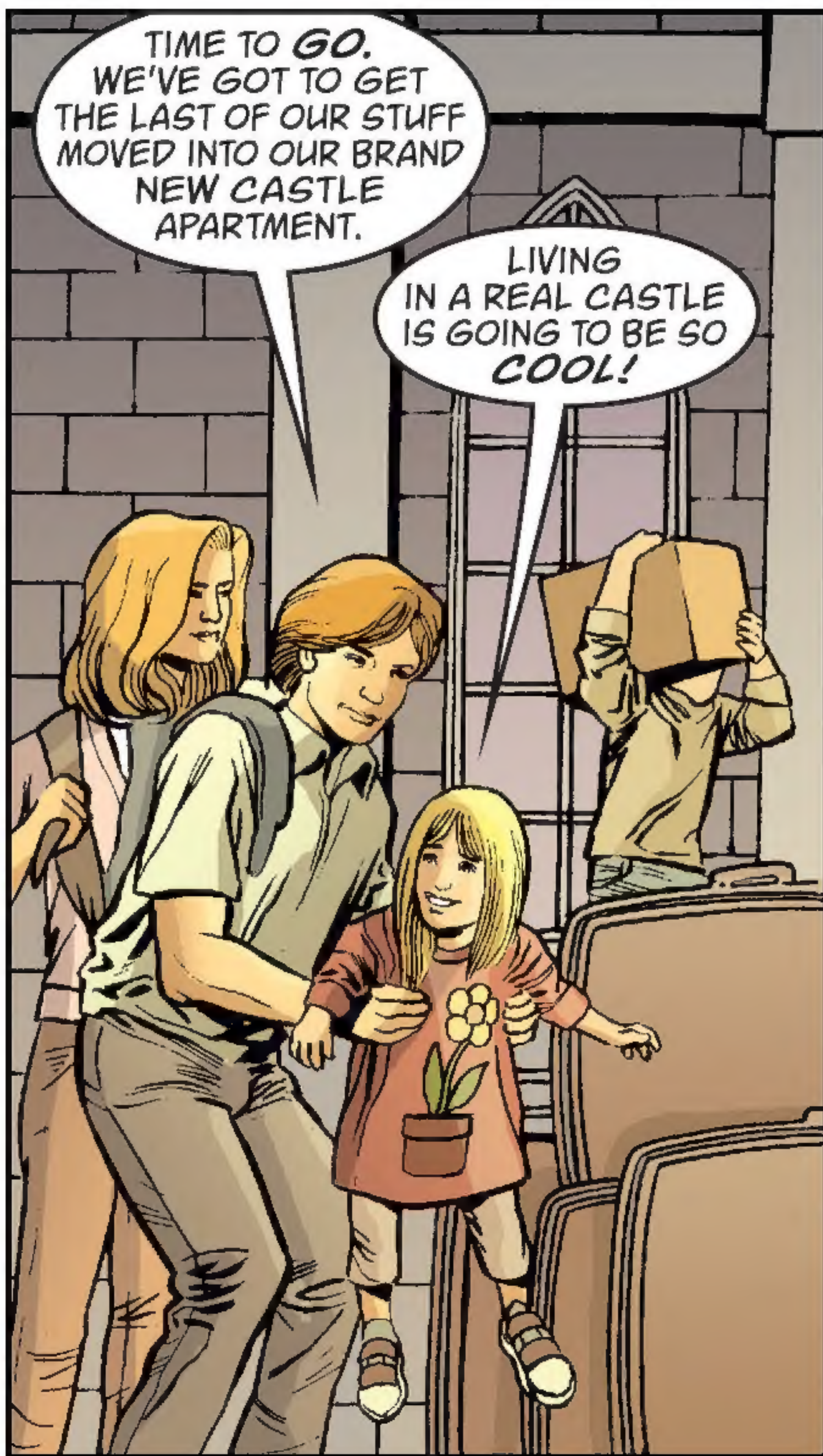
MAGIC ISN'T ALL-POWERFUL, HONEY. IT'S JUST ANOTHER KIND OF **ENGINEERING**, BASED ON A DIFFERENT SET OF CLEARLY DEFINED RULES AND PRINCIPLES.

EXCEPT WHEN IT **ISN'T**.

NOPE. THAT SMELLS MORE LIKE A PIECE OF THE **TAIL** TO ME.

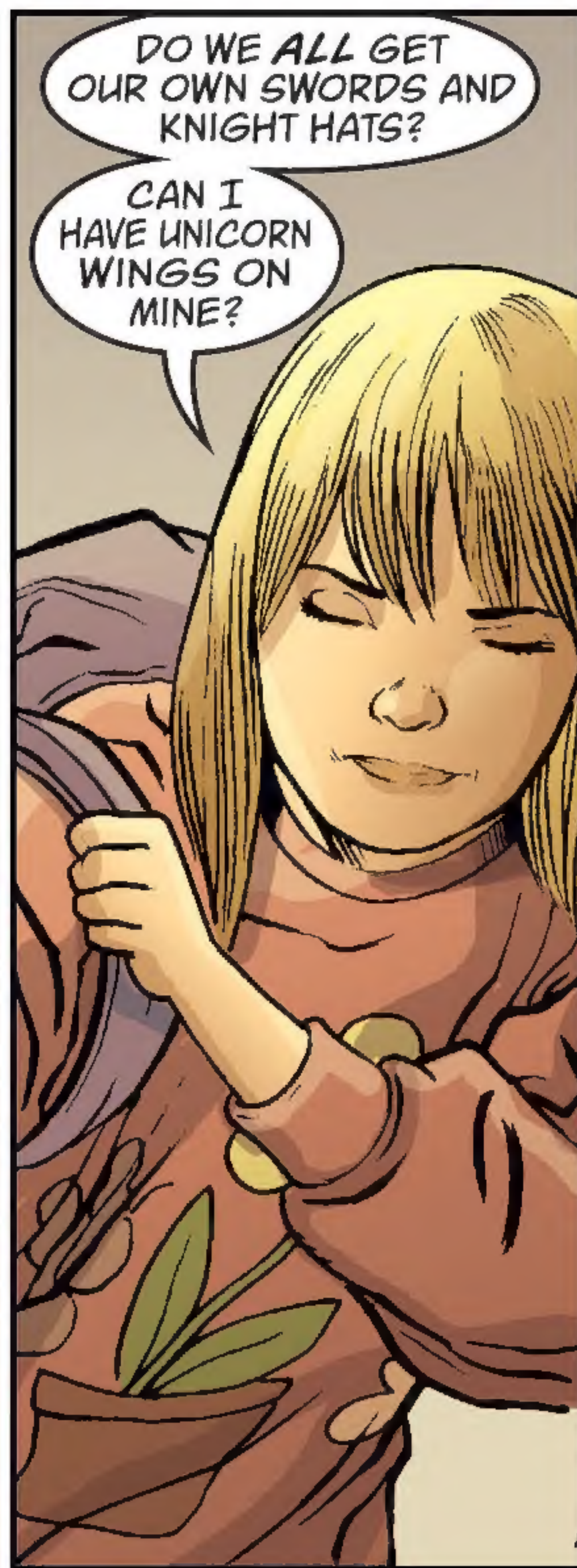
I THINK THIS IS THE ANKLE PIECE WE WERE LOOKING FOR.

BIG BOY
OUR HERO



TIME TO GO. WE'VE GOT TO GET THE LAST OF OUR STUFF MOVED INTO OUR BRAND NEW CASTLE APARTMENT.

LIVING IN A REAL CASTLE IS GOING TO BE SO COOL!



DO WE ALL GET OUR OWN SWORDS AND KNIGHT HATS?

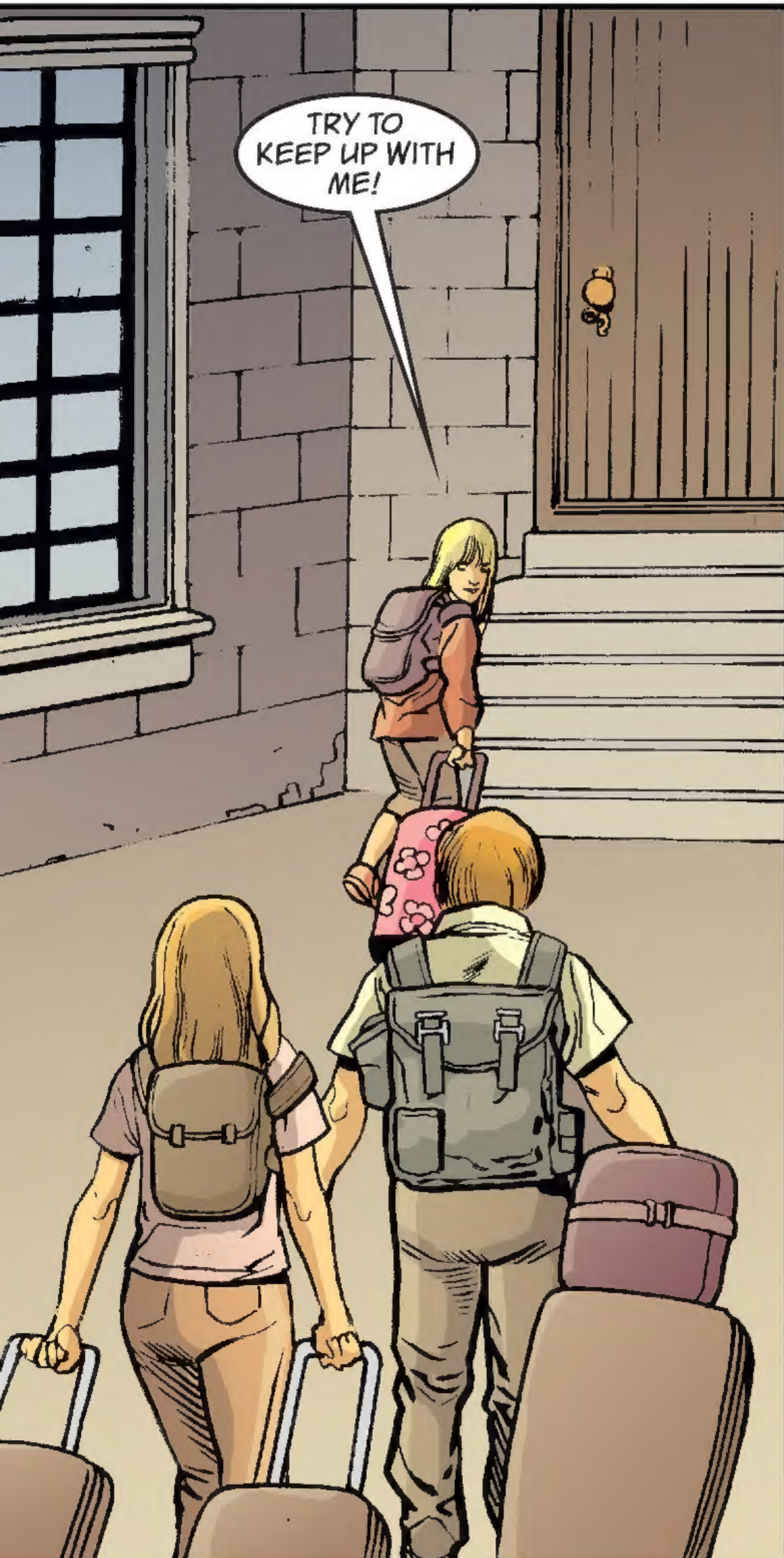
CAN I HAVE UNICORN WINGS ON MINE?



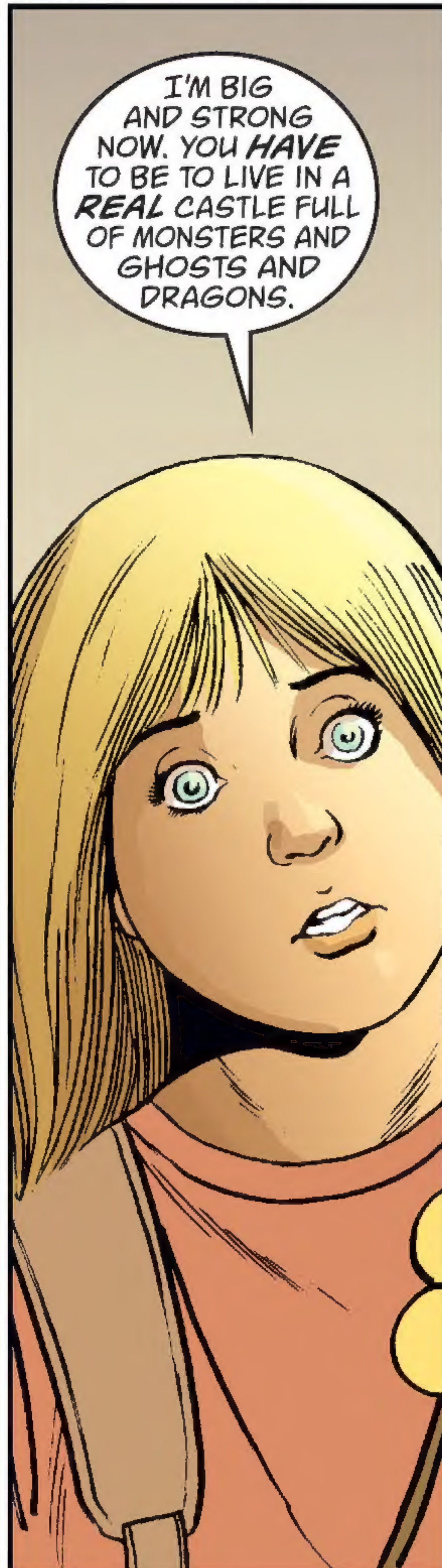
PEGASI HAVE WINGS. UNICORNS HAVE HORNS.

NEED HELP WITH THAT, SPLINTER?

I GOT IT.



TRY TO KEEP UP WITH ME!



I'M BIG AND STRONG NOW. YOU HAVE TO BE TO LIVE IN A REAL CASTLE FULL OF MONSTERS AND GHOSTS AND DRAGONS.



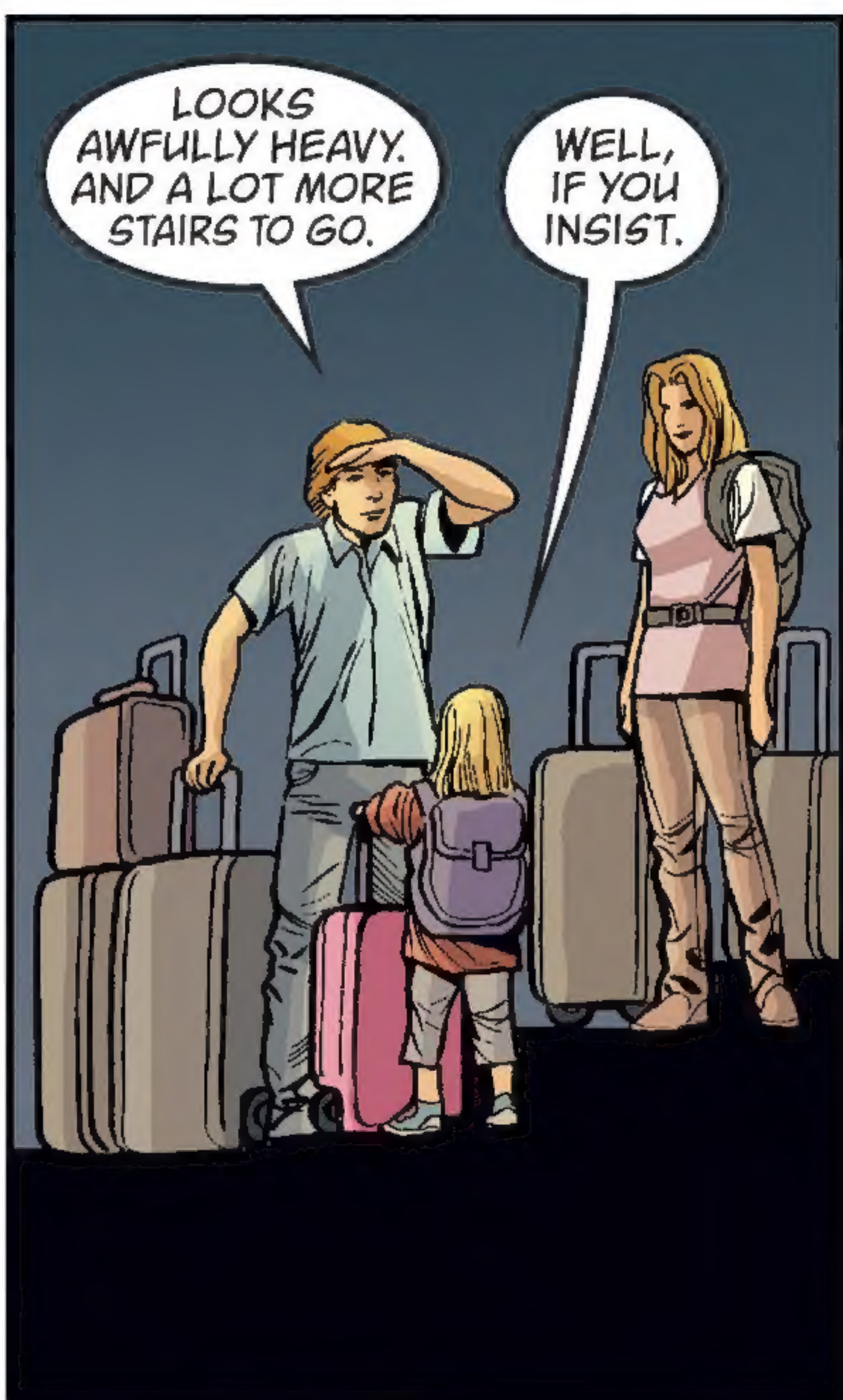
OH...

THOSE ARE A LOT OF STEPS.



NEED HELP NOW?

I GOT IT.



LOOKS AWFULLY HEAVY. AND A LOT MORE STAIRS TO GO.

WELL, IF YOU INSIST.



I'MMA LIVE IN A CASTLE! I'MMA LIVE IN A CASTLE!

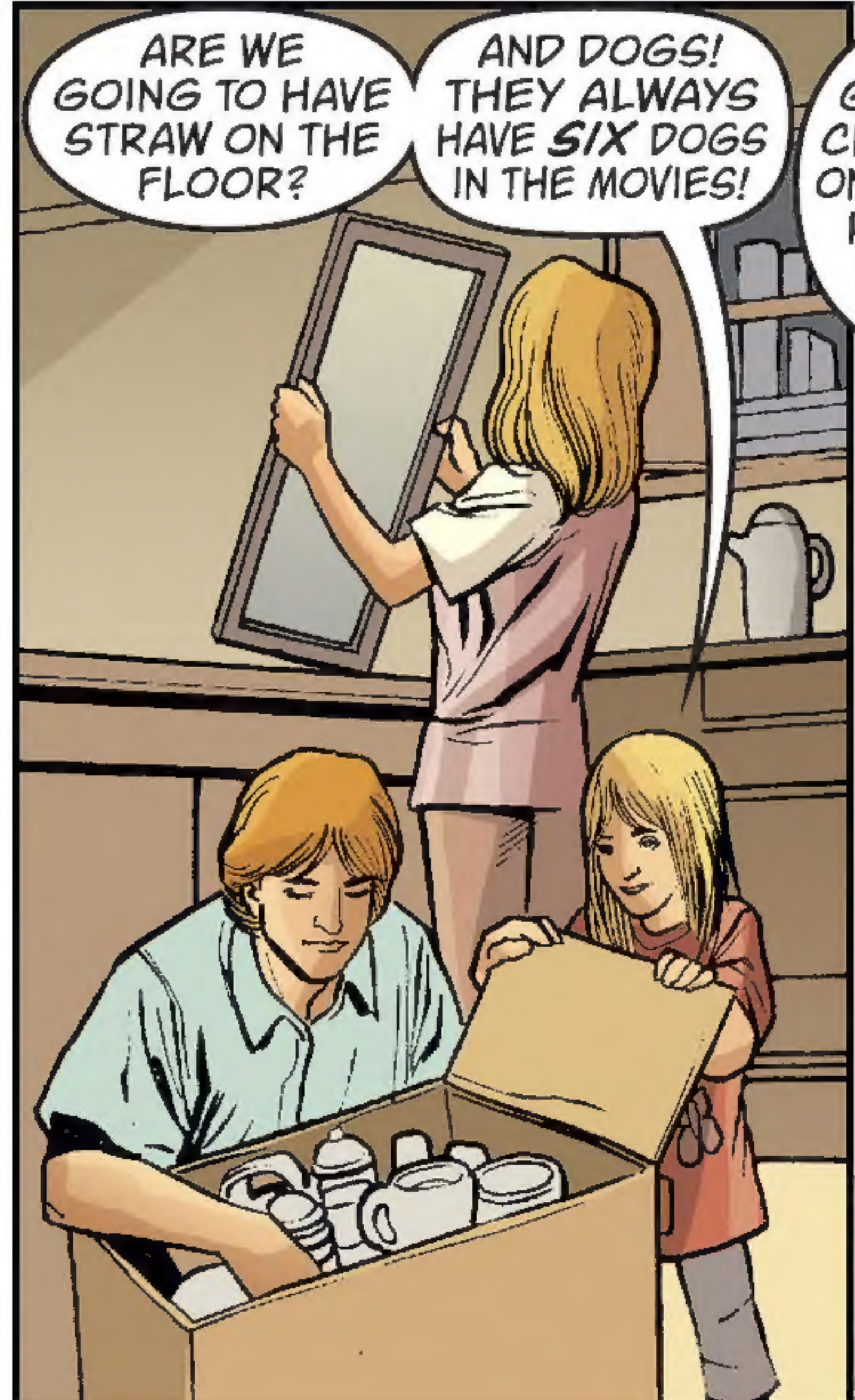


WOW!

THIS IS THE GREATEST HOUSE EVER!

HOW HIGH UP ARE WE?

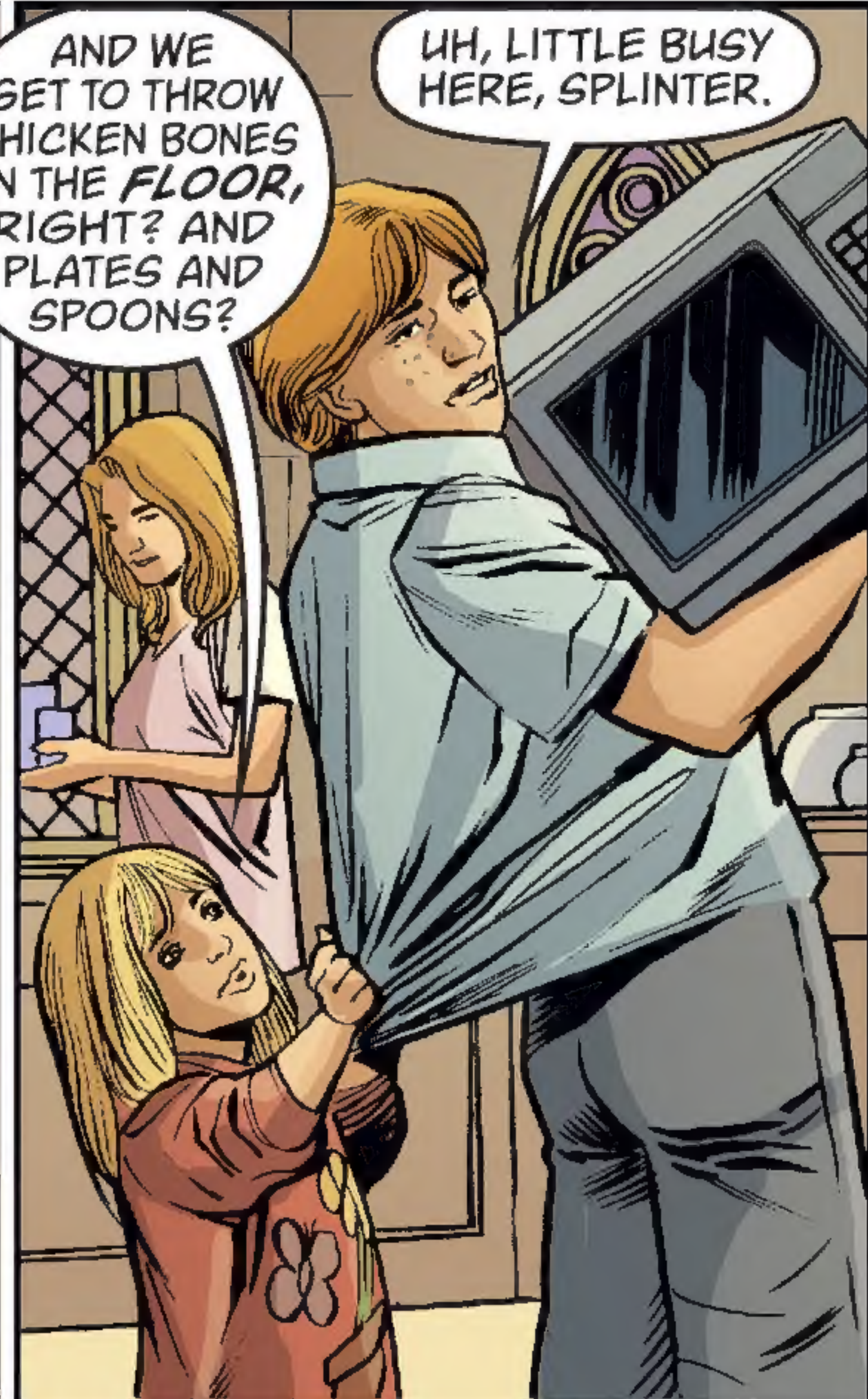
WHERE'S MY ROOM?



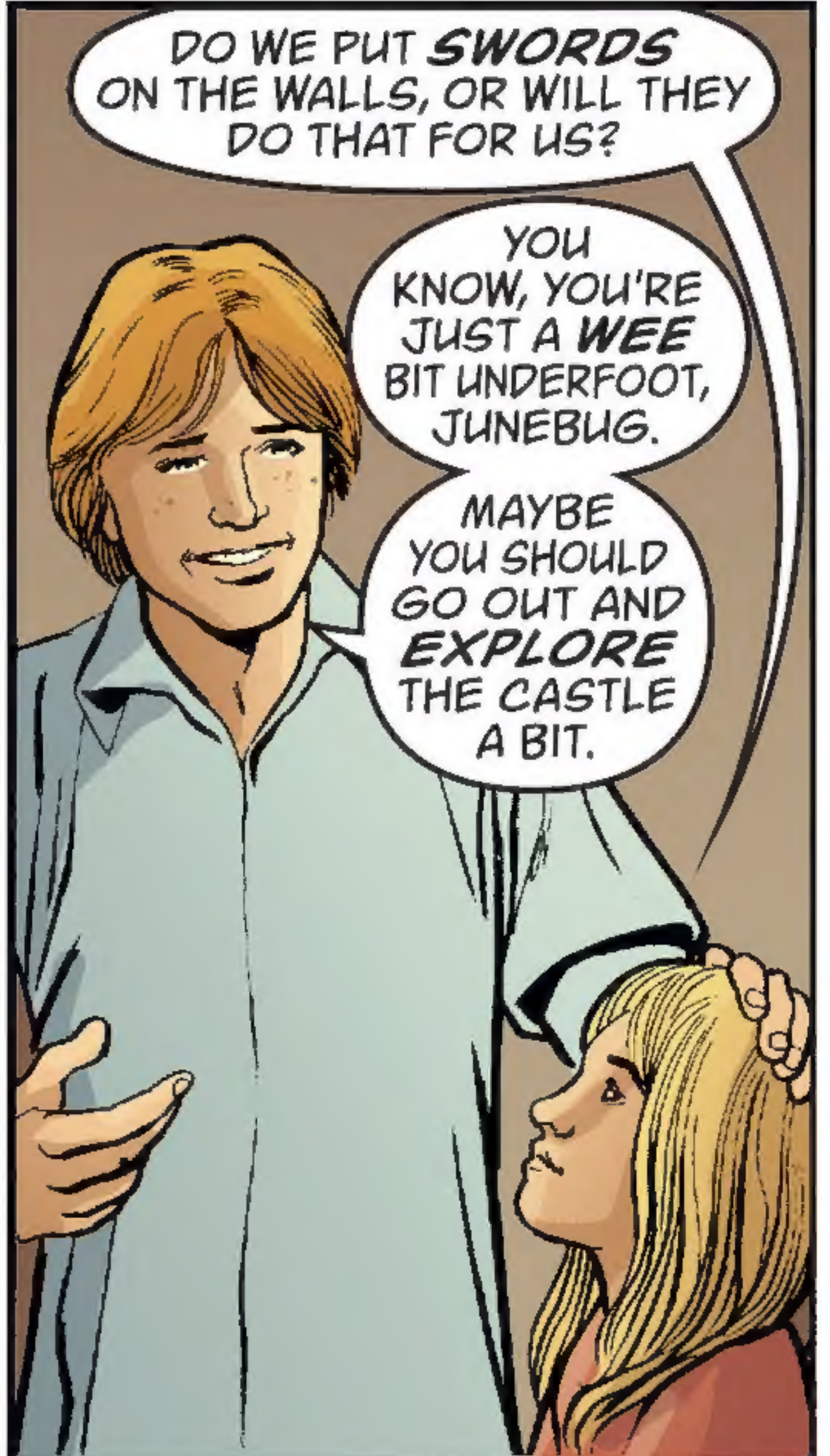
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE STRAW ON THE FLOOR?

AND DOGS! THEY ALWAYS HAVE SIX DOGS IN THE MOVIES!

AND WE GET TO THROW CHICKEN BONES ON THE FLOOR, RIGHT? AND PLATES AND SPOONS?



UH, LITTLE BUSY HERE, SPLINTER.



DO WE PUT SWORDS ON THE WALLS, OR WILL THEY DO THAT FOR US?

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE JUST A WEE BIT UNDERFOOT, JUNEBUG.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO OUT AND EXPLORE THE CASTLE A BIT.

CAN I?
BY MYSELF?

THAT WOULD JUST SIMPLY REALLY ABSOLUTELY BE THE BEST THING EVER!

I DON'T KNOW, RODNEY. THIS IS A BIG CASTLE. IT MIGHT BE SCARY FOR A GIRL HER AGE.

SURE, BUT JUST THE RIGHT KIND OF SCARY, WITH ONLY IMAGINARY DANGER, LIKE A ROLLER COASTER. THEY'VE ALREADY CLEANED OUT ANYTHING IFFY.

LET HER HAVE AN ADVENTURE, JUNE. WE NEED AN HOUR OR TWO SANS MINIATURE *TORNADOS* TO FINISH UNPACKING THE BIG STUFF.

NO TAKE BACKS!

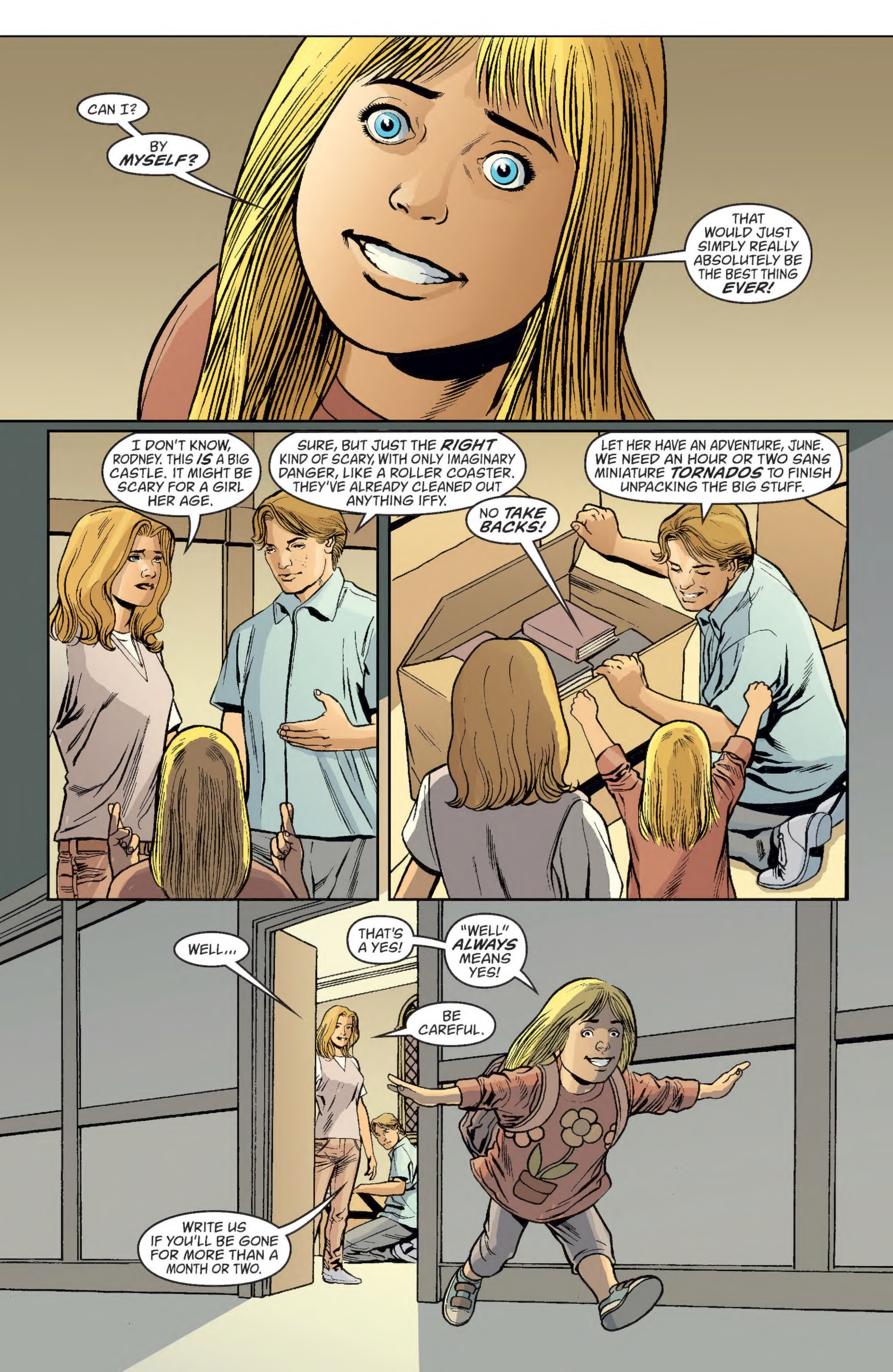
WELL...

THAT'S A YES!

"WELL" ALWAYS MEANS YES!

BE CAREFUL.

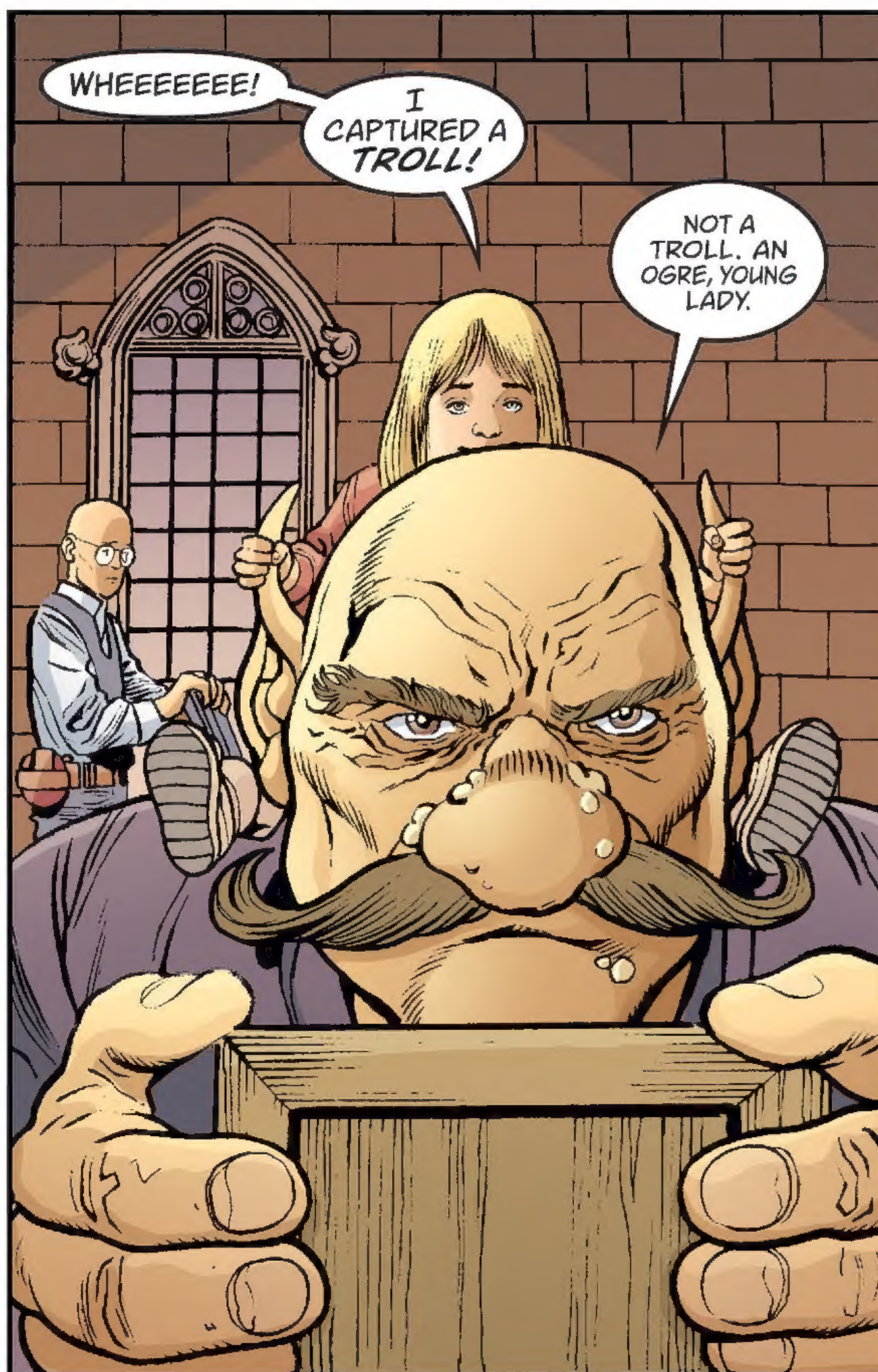
WRITE US IF YOU'LL BE GONE FOR MORE THAN A MONTH OR TWO.





AND SO...

ARE YOU **SURE** YOU GET TO USE ELECTRIC STUFF TO PUT THINGS TOGETHER? THEY DIDN'T HAVE ELECTRIC STUFF IN **REAL** CASTLE DAYS.



WHEEEEEEE!

I CAPTURED A **TROLL!**

NOT A TROLL. AN **OGRE, YOUNG LADY.**



WHAT DOES "ELDRITCH" MEAN, AND I HAVE TO CUT INTO **WHAT** WITH A KNIFE?

SACRIFICIAL OFFERING?

OH, I FEEL ODD...

YOUNG LADY!

MAGIC 793.8X

NECROMOMICON

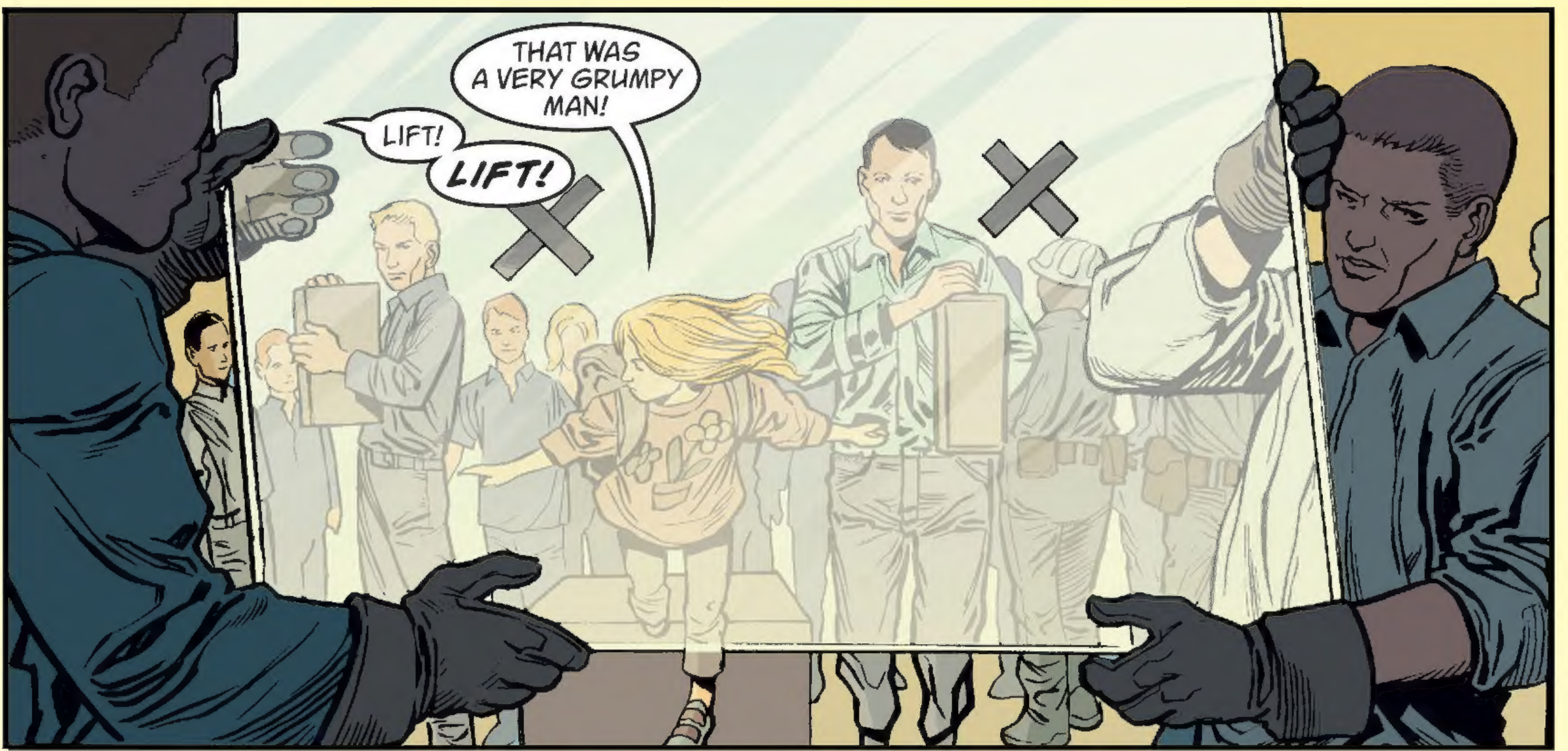


YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE WHILE I'M CATALOGUING THE **MAGICAL** TOMES.

THESE BOOKS ARE **NOT** FOR CHILDREN TO READ!

BUT THEY HAD PICTURES.

PICTURE BOOKS ARE FOR KIDS. THAT'S A **RULE.**



THAT WAS A VERY GRUMPY MAN!

LIFT!

LIFT!



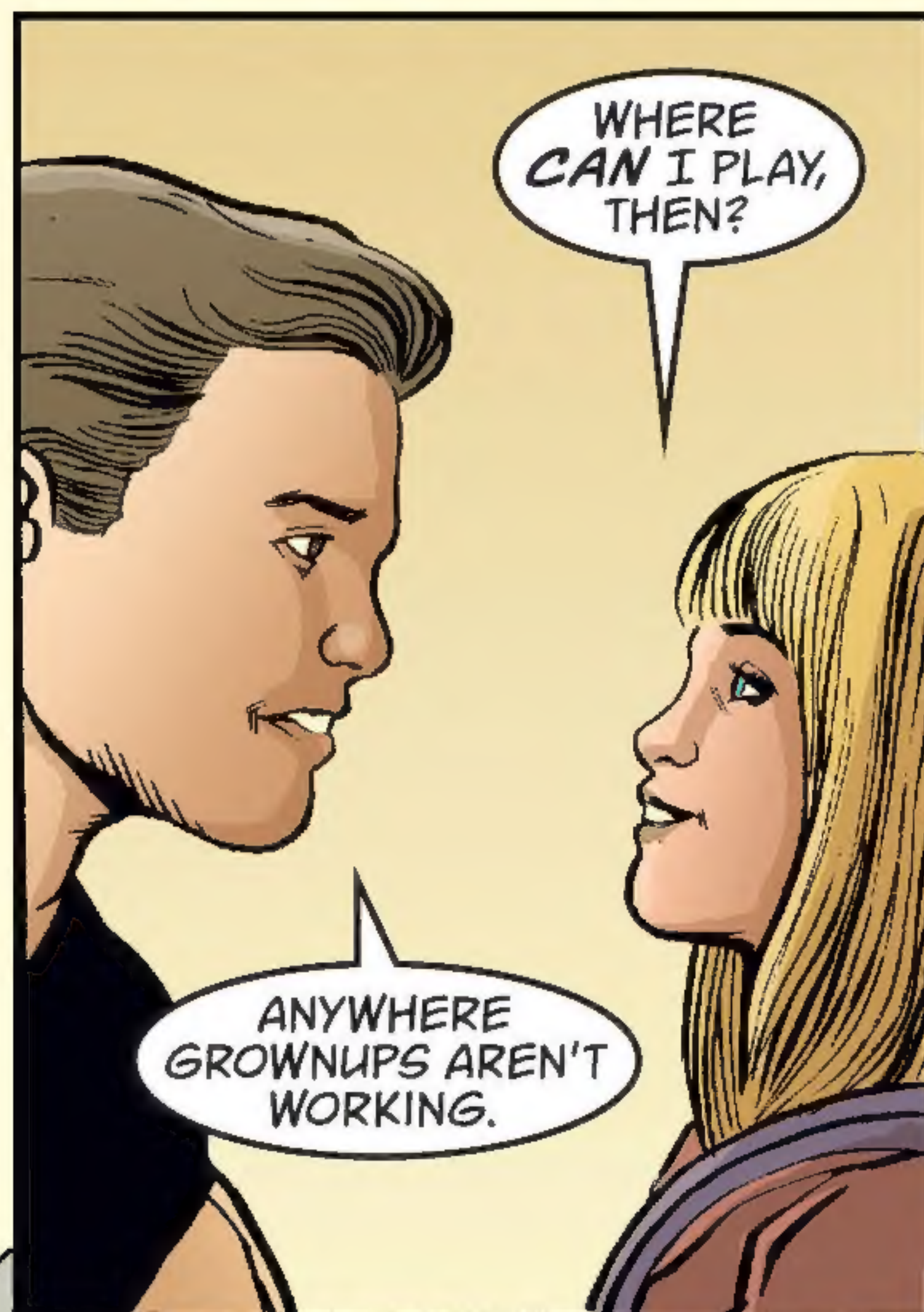
WHEW!<

OKAY, THAT WAS NEARLY A--



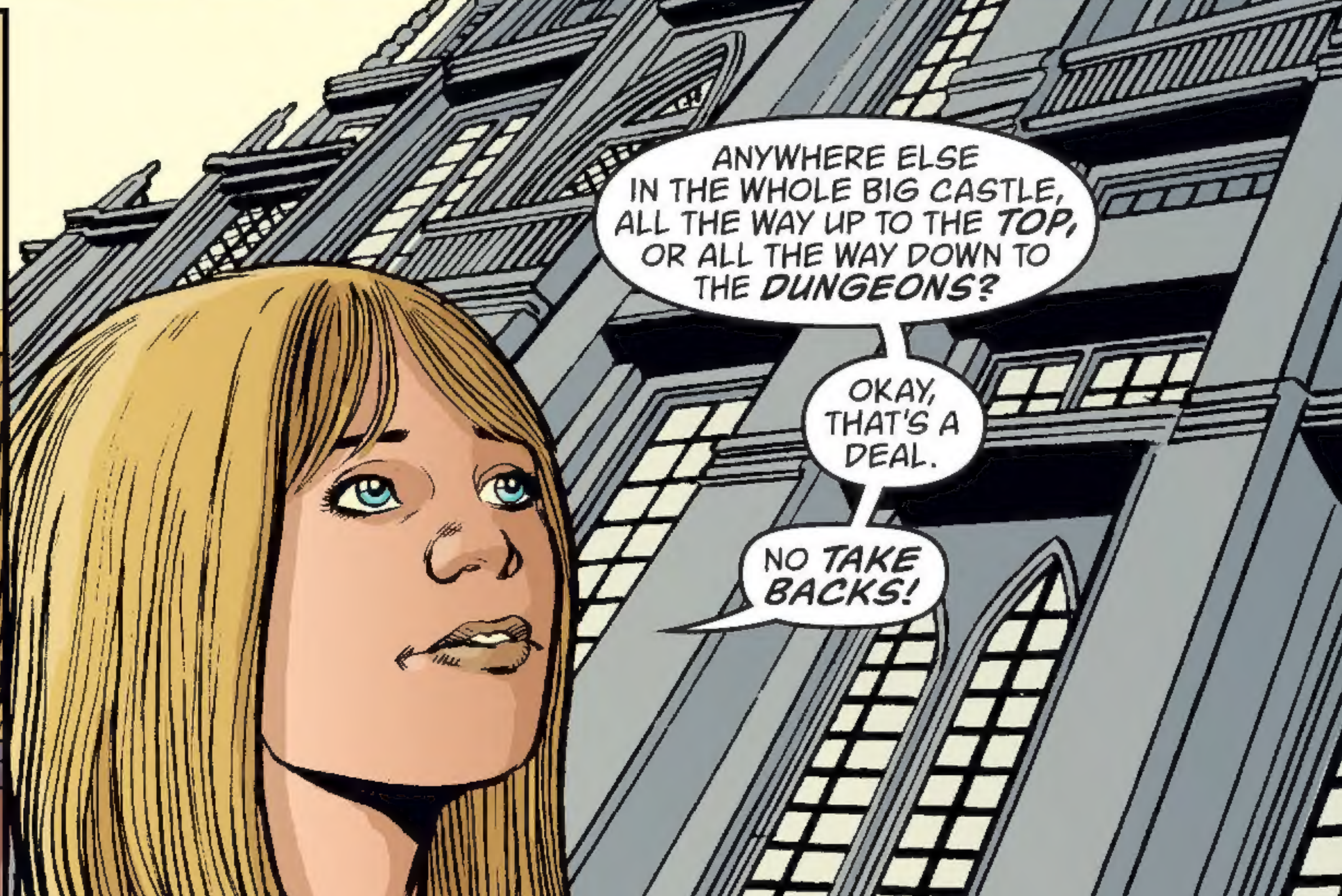
YOUNG MISSY!

THIS IS PERHAPS **NOT** THE BEST PLACE TO PLAY RIGHT NOW.



WHERE CAN I PLAY, THEN?

ANYWHERE GROWNUPS AREN'T WORKING.



ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WHOLE BIG CASTLE, ALL THE WAY UP TO THE TOP, OR ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE **DUNGEONS**?

OKAY, THAT'S A DEAL.

NO TAKE BACKS!



OOOOH.

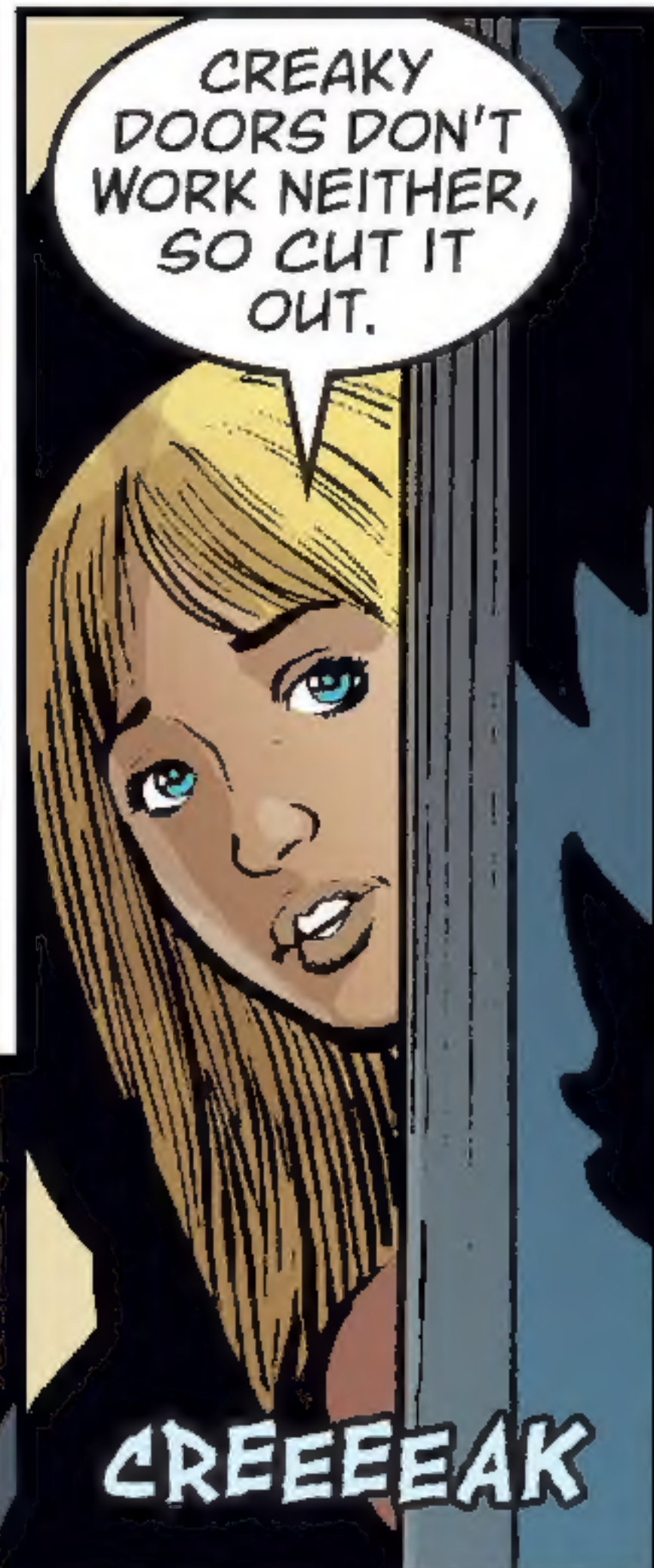
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT.



SCARY SHADOWS DON'T SCARE ME.

THEY DON'T! OKAY?

SO DON'T EVEN TRY!



CREAKY DOORS DON'T WORK NEITHER, SO CUT IT OUT.

CREEEEA



YAAAAAHHH!!



I'M OKAY! I'M FINE!

YOU JUST SURPRISED ME IS--



WOW!

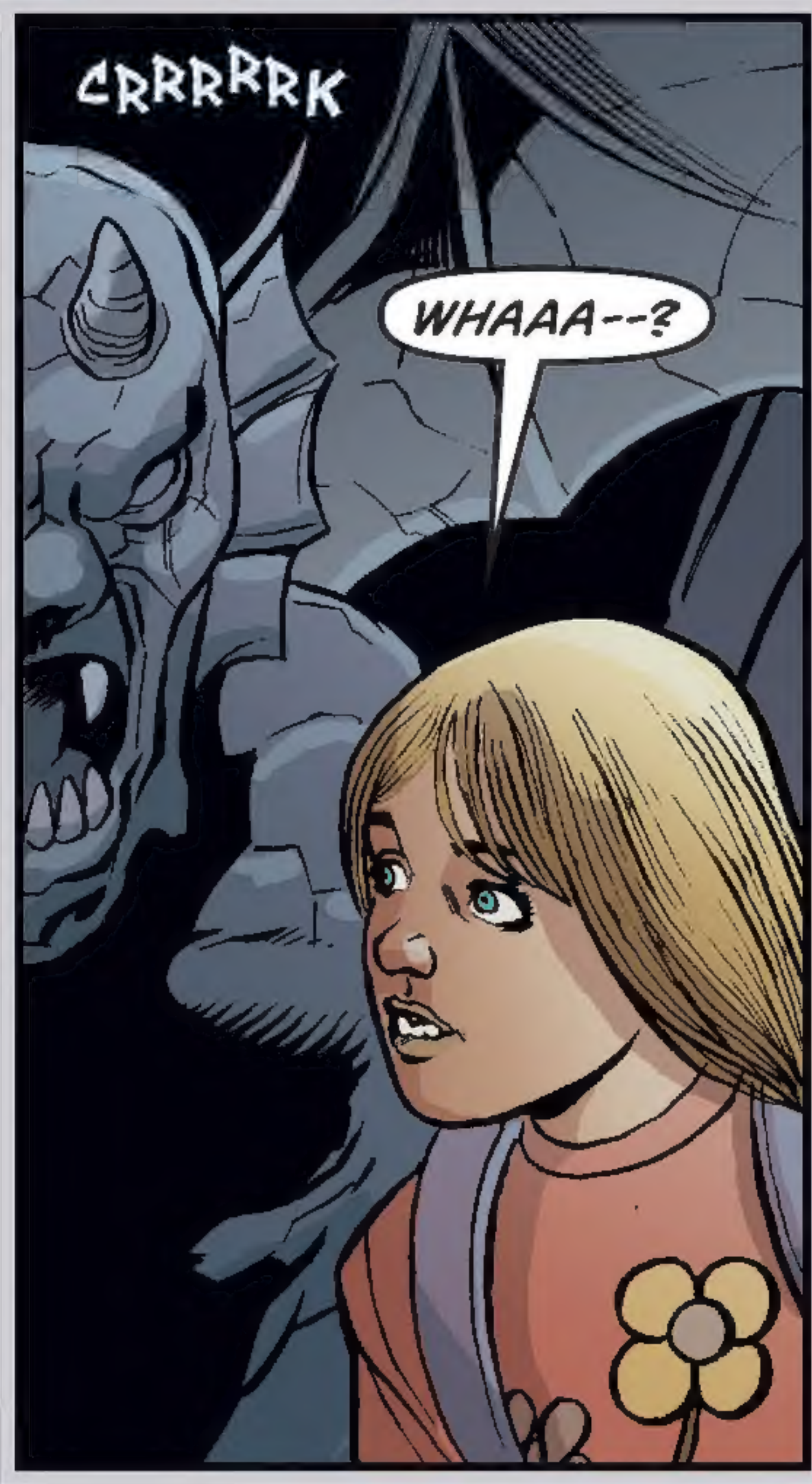
A HALL OF MONSTERS!



HA!

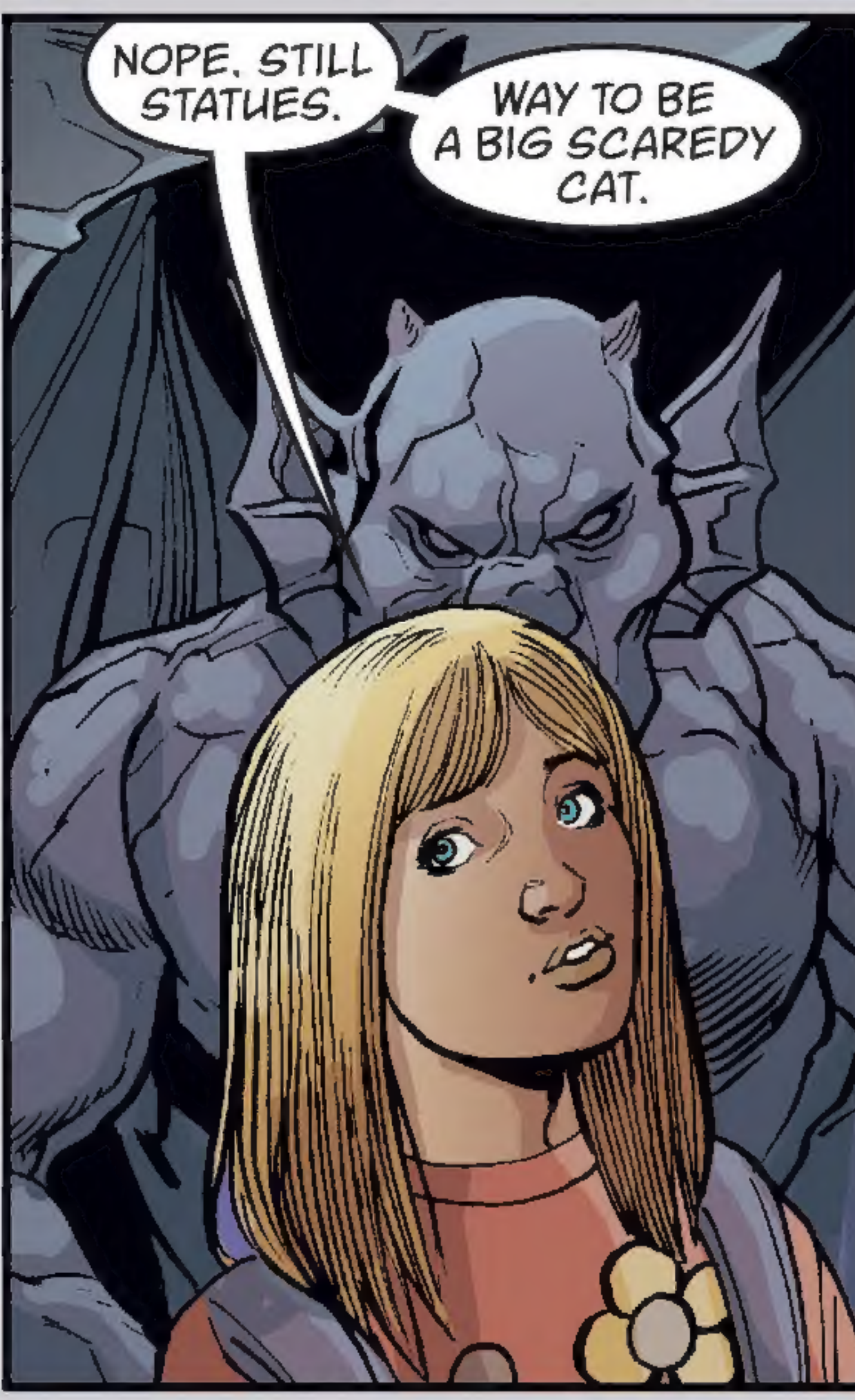
YOU'RE ALL JUST STATUES.

I KNEW IT ALL THE TIME.



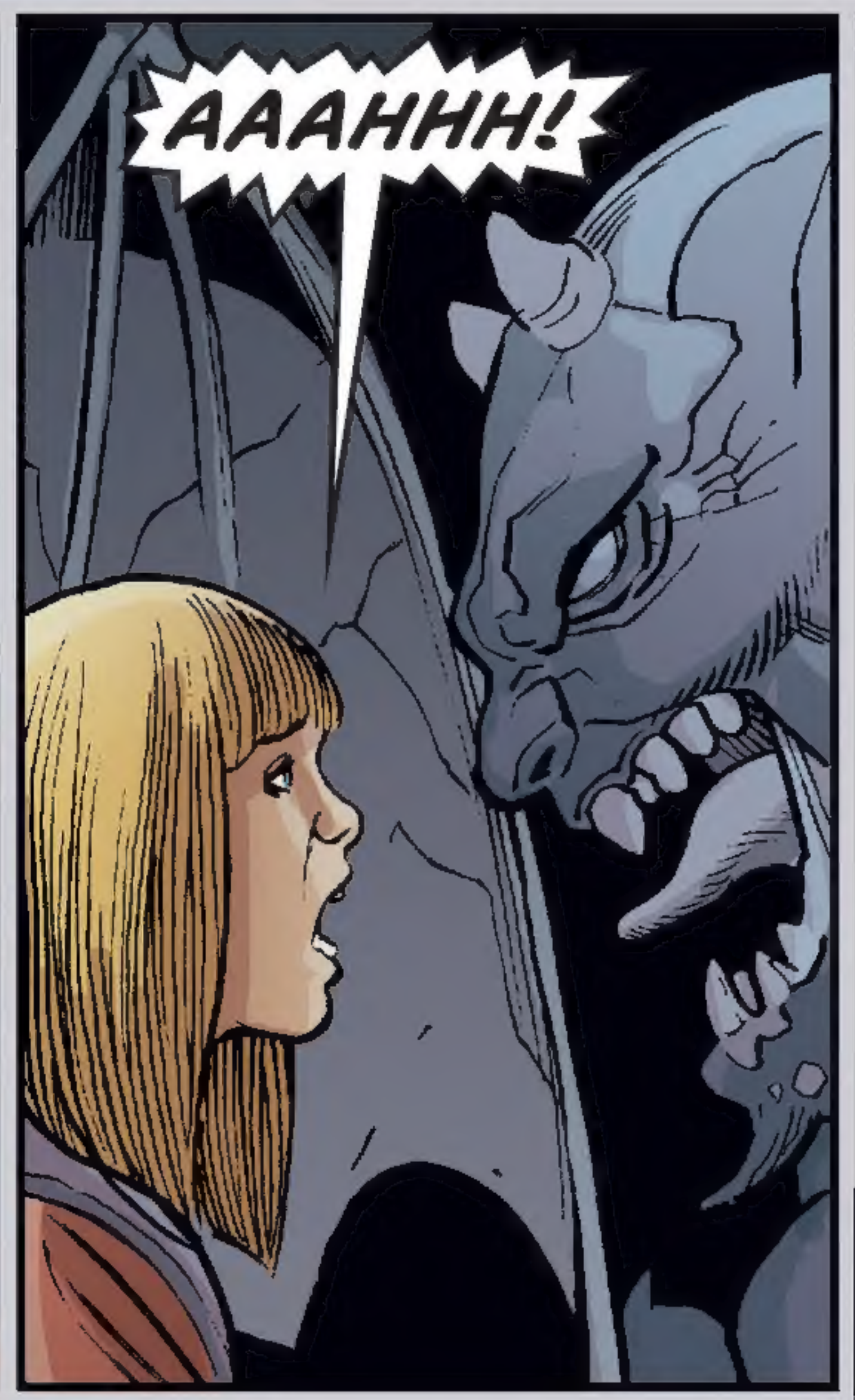
CRRRRRK

WHAAA--?

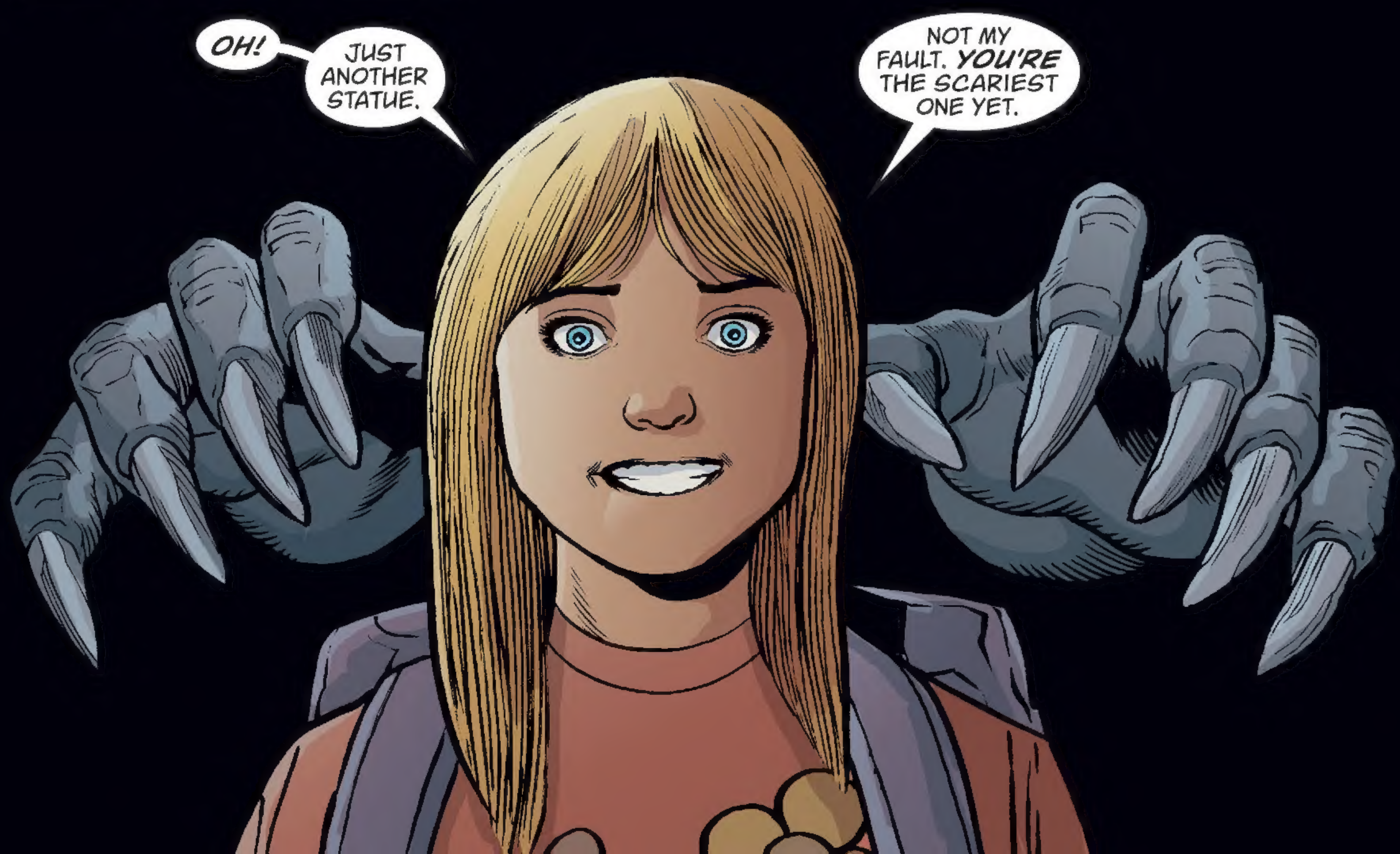


NOPE. STILL STATUES.

WAY TO BE A BIG SCAREDY CAT.



AAHHH!



OH!

JUST ANOTHER STATUE.

NOT MY FAULT. YOU'RE THE SCARIEST ONE YET.

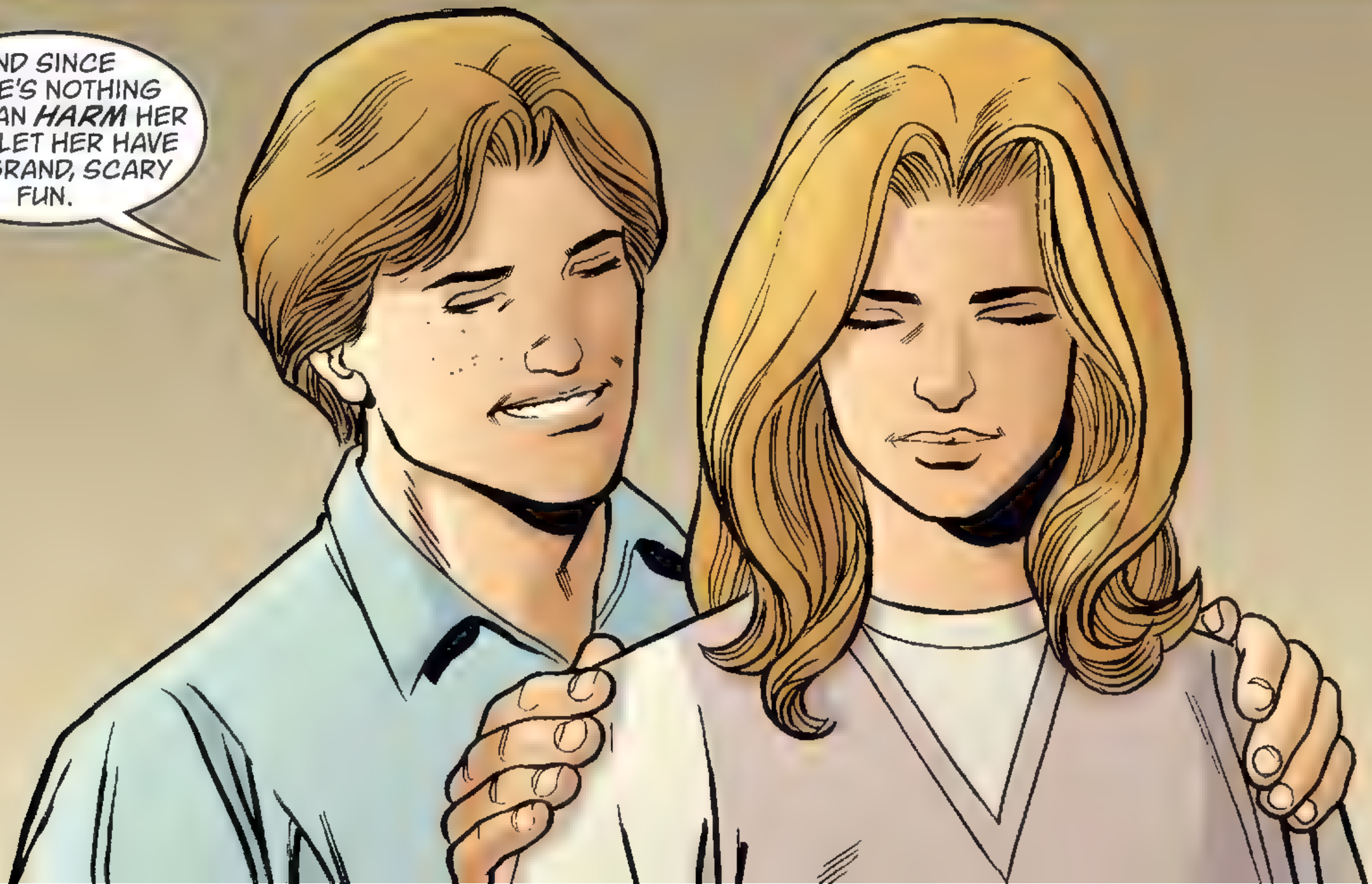
TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK,
GO THE MINUTES AND
HOURS...

WHAT
TIME IS IT? IT'S
STARTING TO GET
LATE.

WE'VE BEEN
AT THIS A *WHILE*
AND SHE'S BEEN
GONE THE WHOLE
TIME.



AND SINCE
THERE'S NOTHING
THAT CAN *HARM* HER
HERE, LET HER HAVE
HER GRAND, SCARY
FUN.



AT THAT VERY
MOMENT...

PLEASE
DON'T KILL
ME!

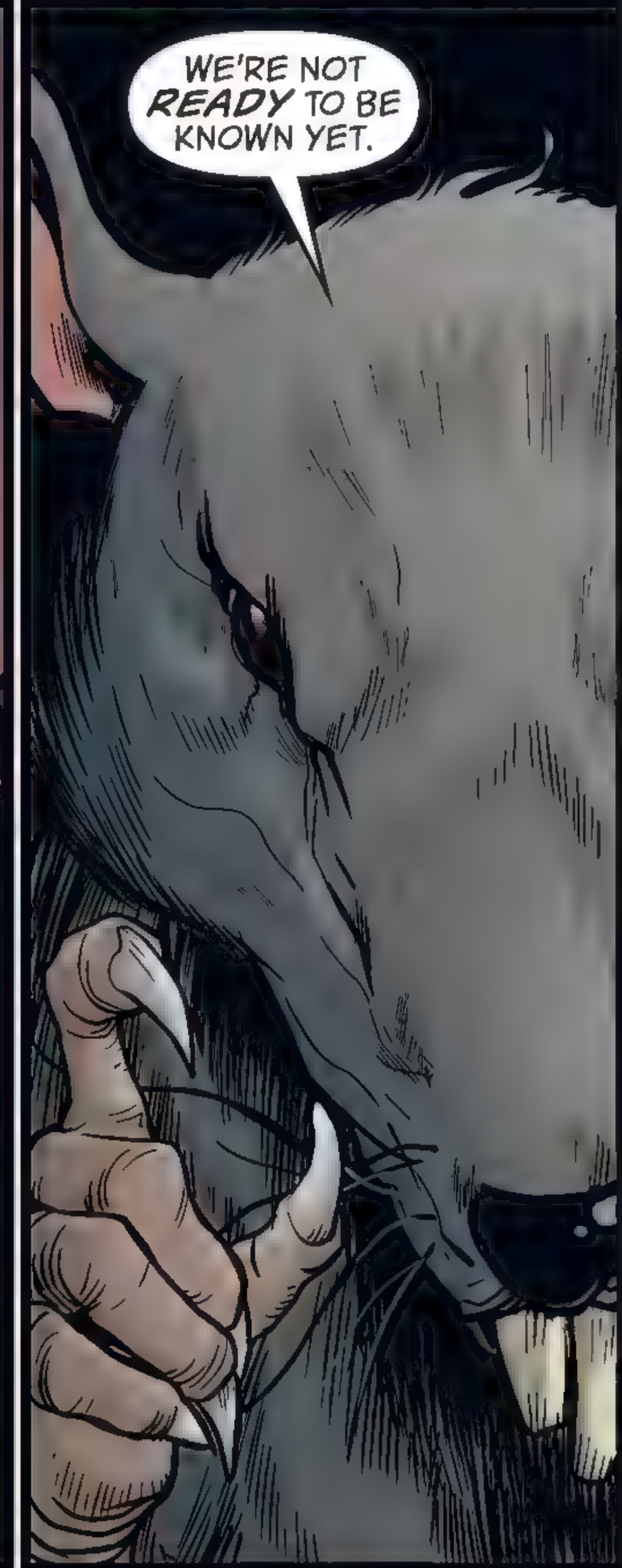
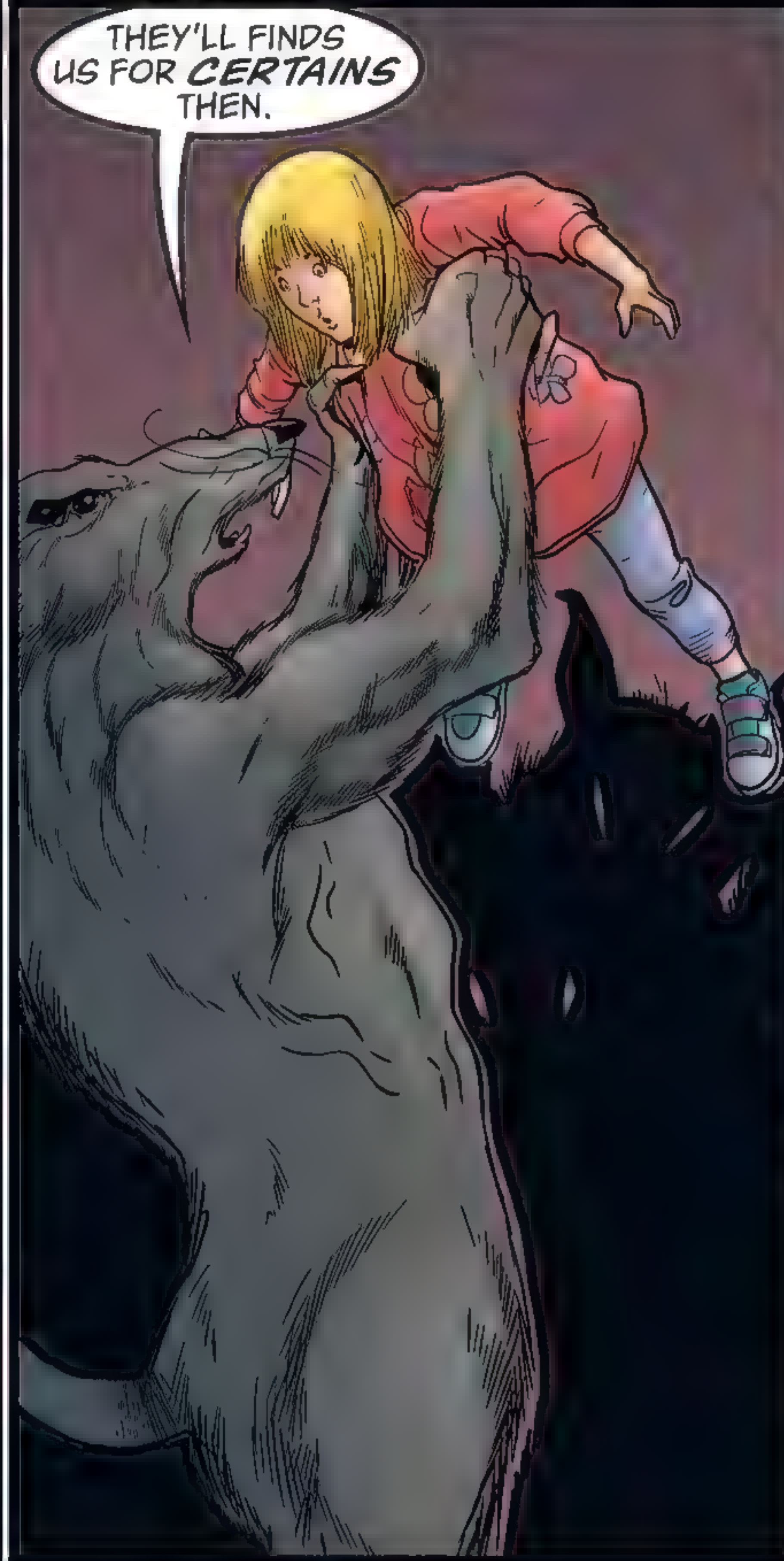
PLEASE
DON'T KILL
ME!

NOW
THERE'S A
THOUGHT.

NO!

THAT'S
NOT A THOUGHT!
THAT'S NOT ANY KIND
OF THOUGHT!

WE KILLS IT
AND EATS IT AND
HIDES ITS **BONES**
AND NOBODY EVER
KNOWS IT WAS
HERE.





MASTER COMMANDS STAY HIDDEN.

I WON'T TELL ANYONE YOU'RE HERE!

HONEST!

HMMMMMM.



WHEN HUMANS SAY "HONEST," IT MEANS LYING IS SPEAKING.

TRUE.

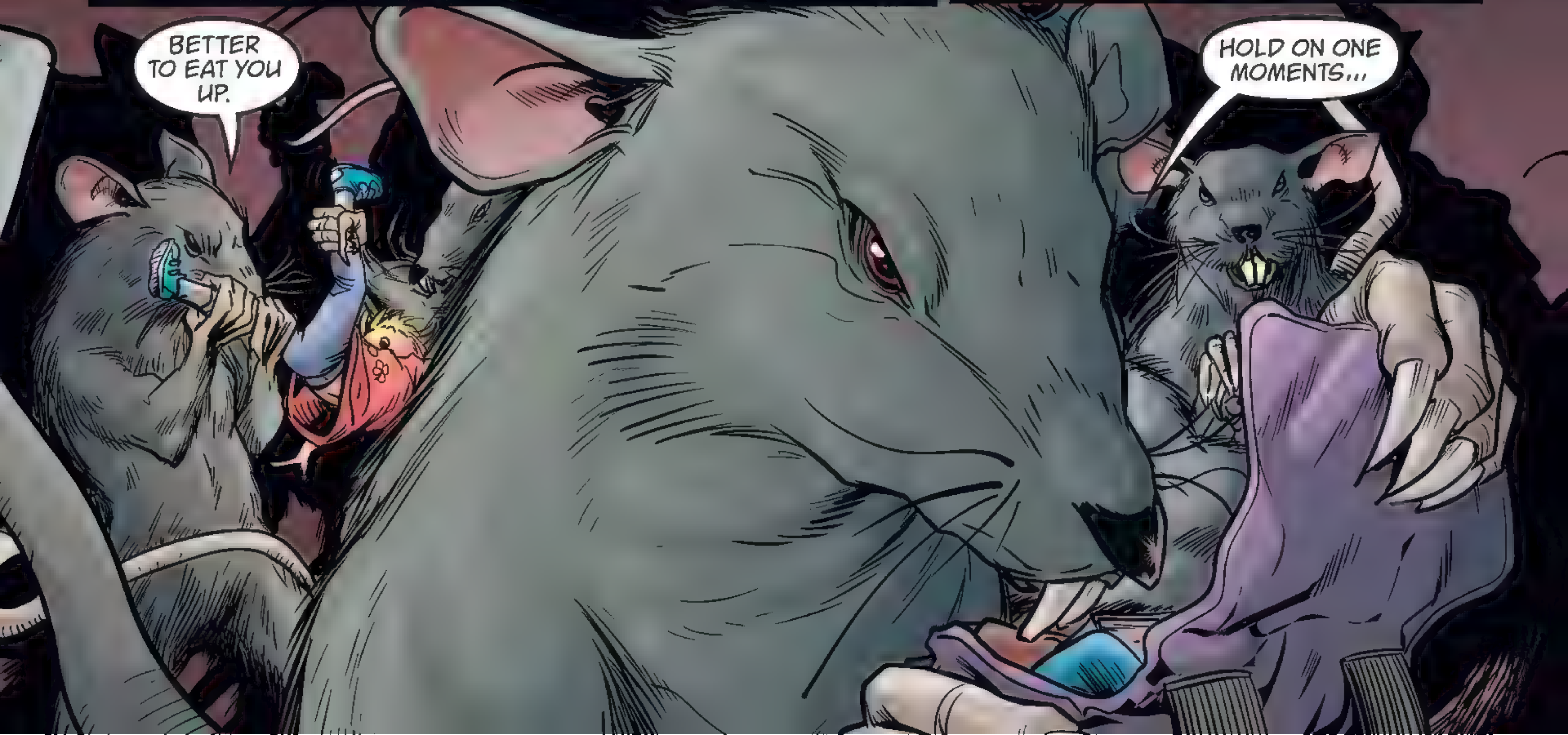
NO! NOT TRUE!



I KEEP EVERY PROMISE!

ASK ANYBODY!

THAT'S A TRAP. IF WE ASKS, THEN THEY KNOWS WE'RE HERE.



BETTER TO EAT YOU UP.

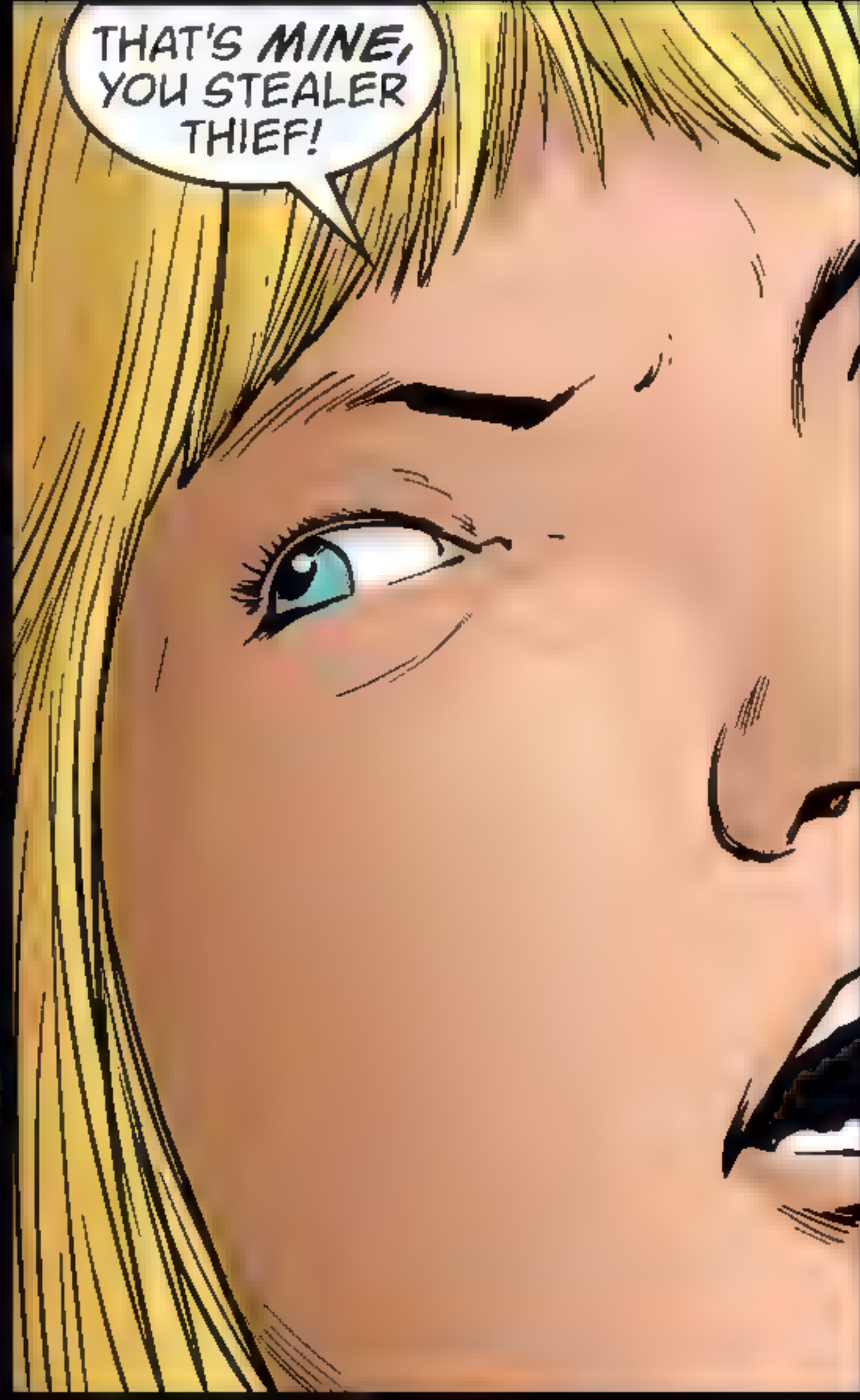
HOLD ON ONE MOMENTS...



KITTENS' BAG MIGHT CONTAIN--
OH! FOODS?



YES, IT IS FOODS.



THAT'S MINE, YOU STEALER THIEF!



AND WATERS, PERHAPS?



NO, NOT WATERS...
...FRUITY DELICIOUS!



ENOUGH HOGGING OF FOODY TREASURES!
WHAT DO WE DO WITH IT?



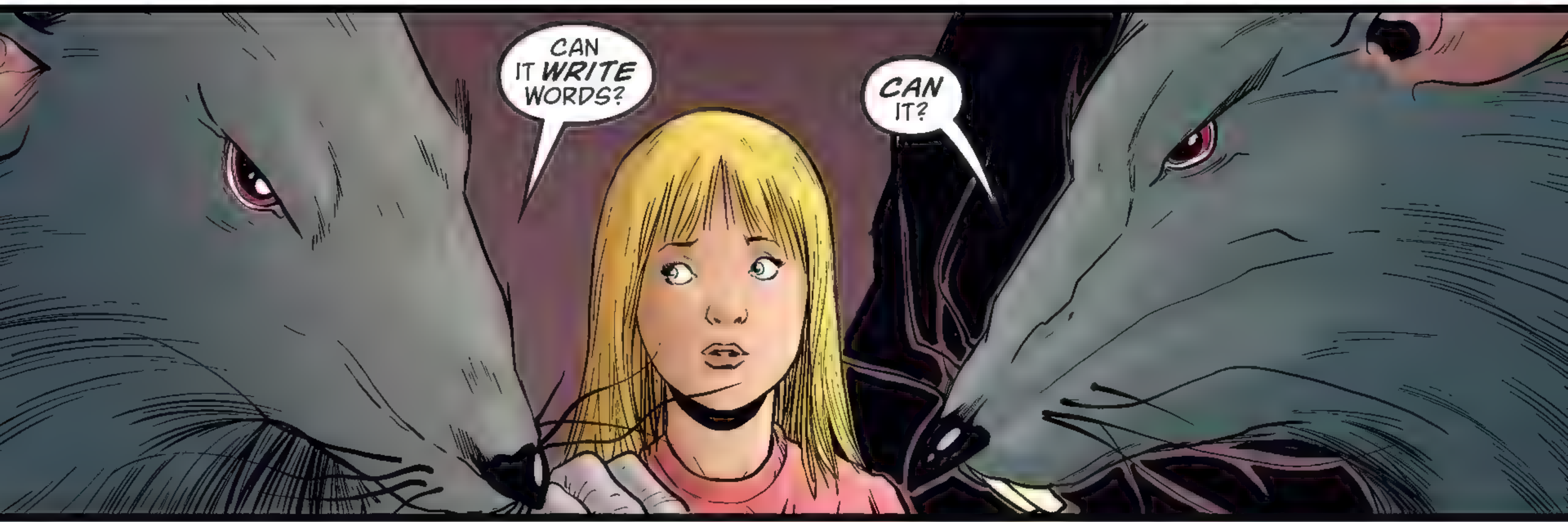
OH, YES. AS I WAS SAYING...



KITTENS MIGHT JUST HAVE...



LOOKS!
LOOKS WHAT IT HAS!



CAN IT WRITE WORDS?

CAN IT?



COURSE I CAN.

I CAN READ AND WRITE QUITE WELL.



THEN I HAVE A PLANS!

A PLANS SO CUNNING IT CANNOT FAILS!

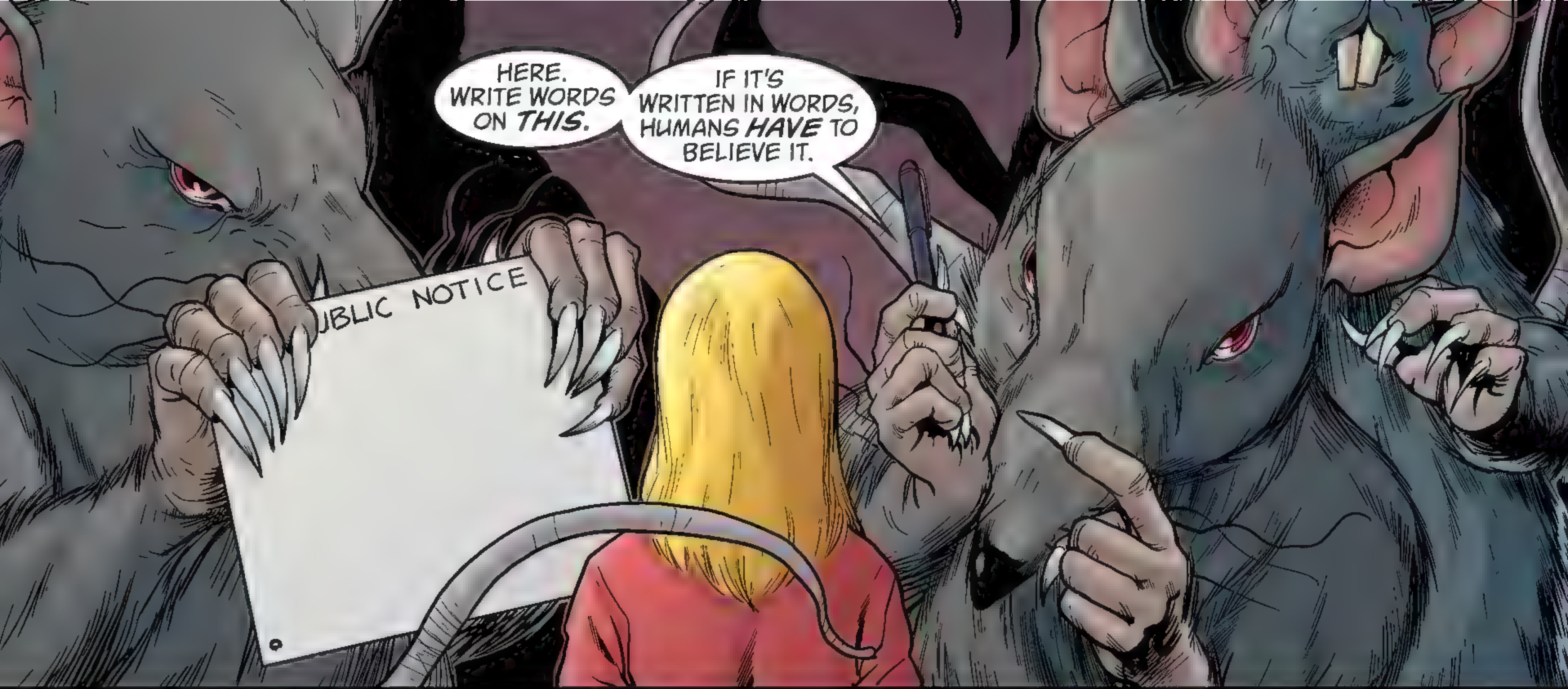


PROVIDING THE HUMANS KITTEN DOES EXACTLY WHAT IT'S TOLD.



GET PAPERS AND PENCILS FROM OUT OF THE SACHELS.

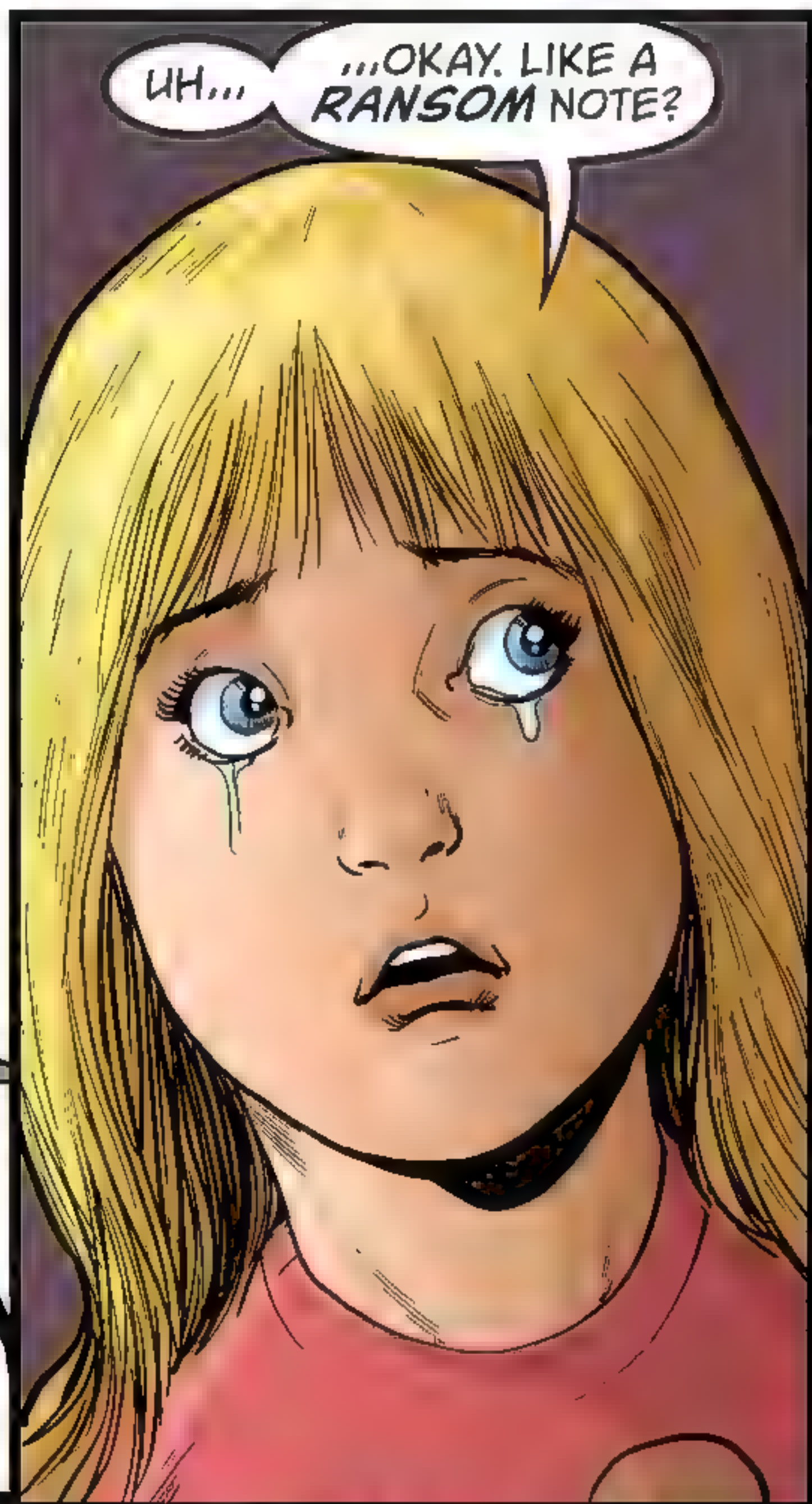
QUICKLY, BEFORE THEY COMES LOOKING FOR THEIR LOST KITTENS.



HERE. WRITE WORDS ON THIS.

IF IT'S WRITTEN IN WORDS, HUMANS *HAVE* TO BELIEVE IT.

PUBLIC NOTICE



UH...

...OKAY. LIKE A RANSOM NOTE?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT RANSOMS IS, OR NOTES, BUT THIS IS *BETTER!*

WRITE DOWNS EVERY WORDS I SAY!

FIRST WORD IS-- *THERE!*

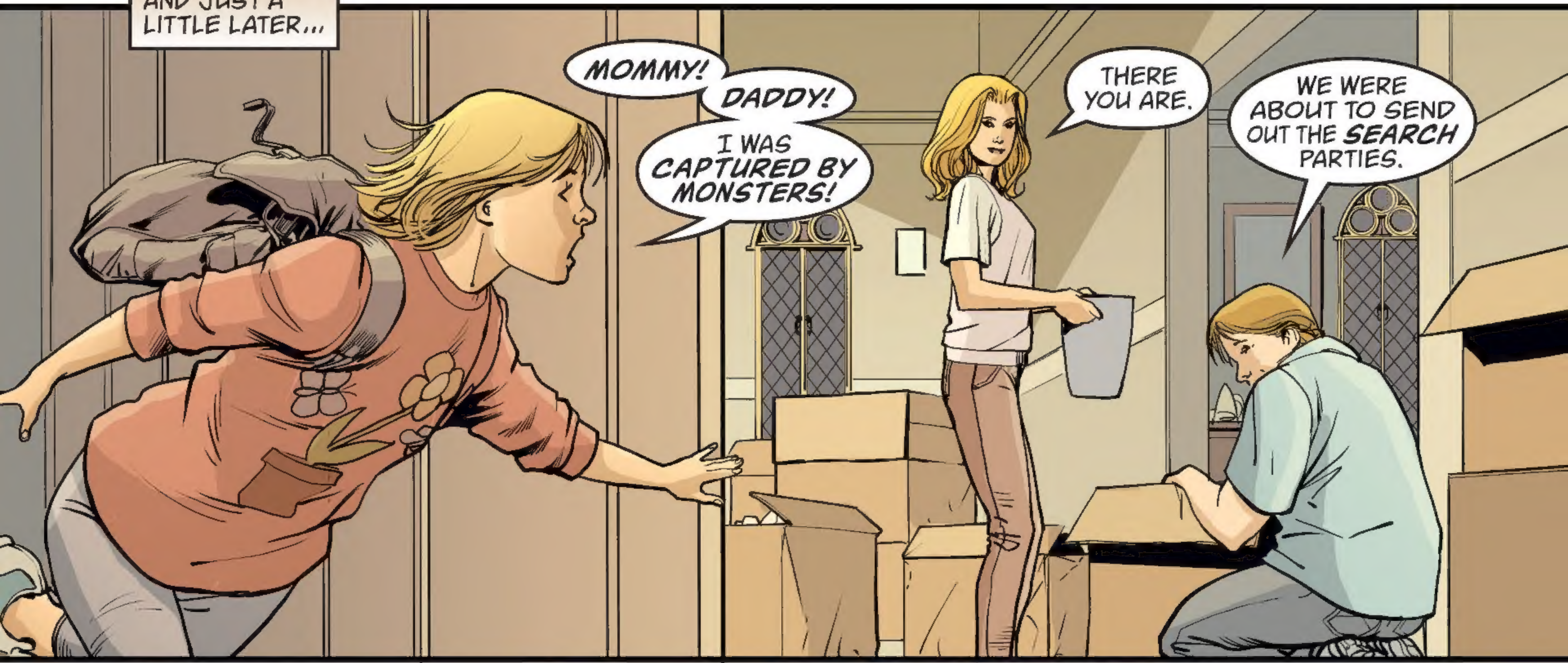


OHOO, GOOD STARTS. "THERE" IS A *EXCELLENT* GOOD WORDS.

ARE YOU *DONE* YET? ARE YOU READY FOR THE NEXT WORDS?

HOLD ON. HOLD ON, I'M DOING IT.

AND JUST A LITTLE LATER...



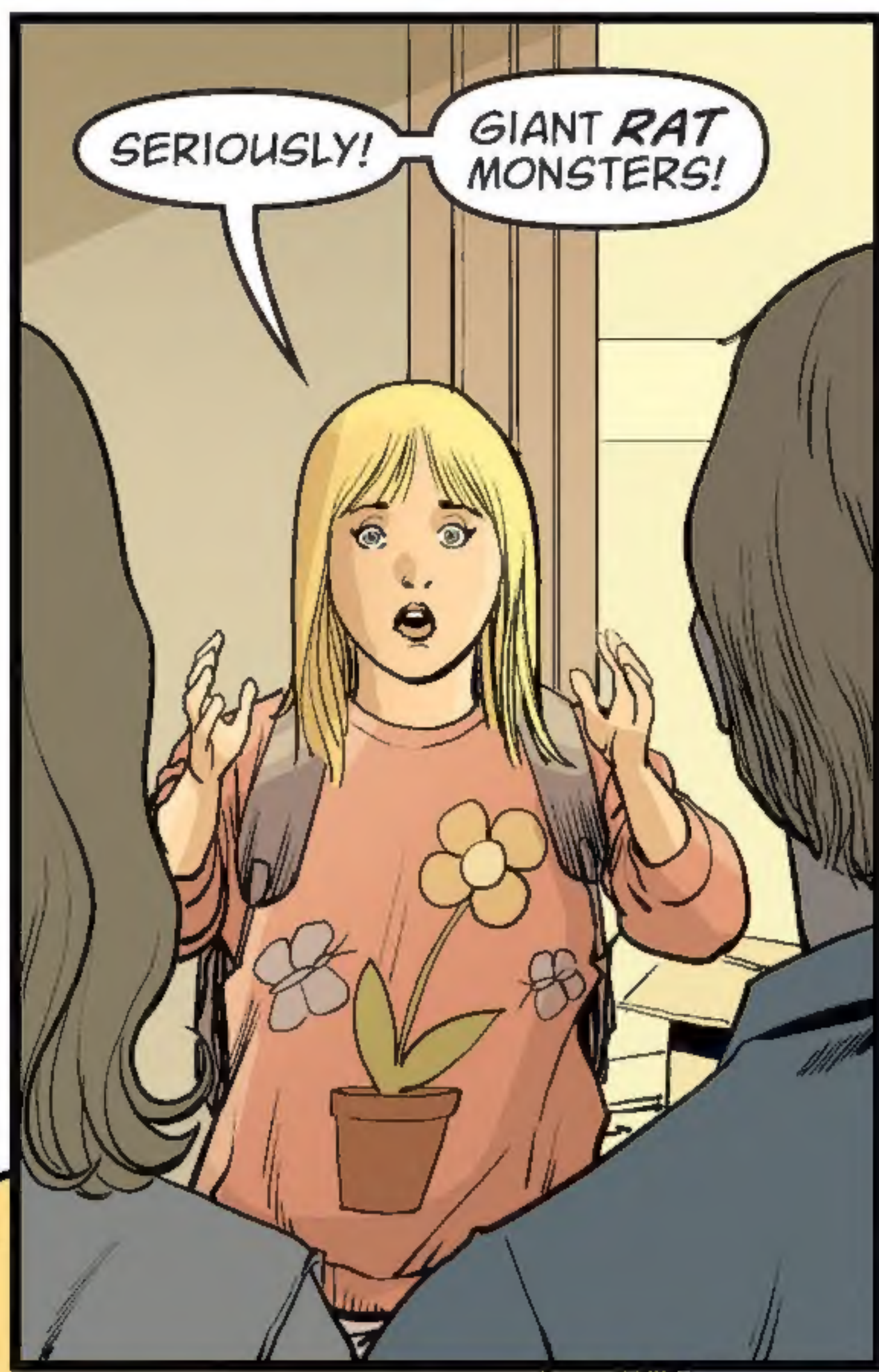
MOMMY!

DADDY!

I WAS CAPTURED BY MONSTERS!

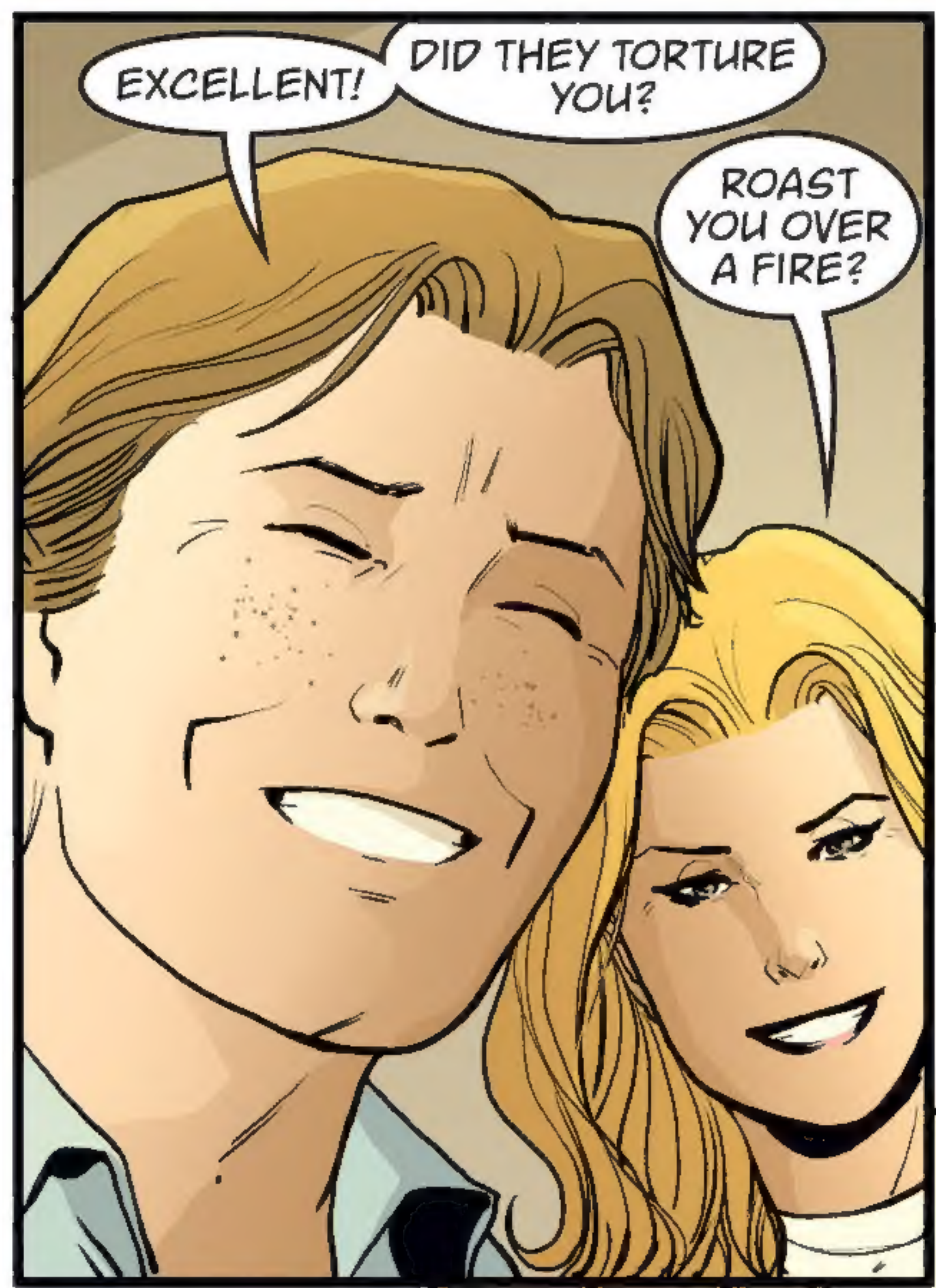
THERE YOU ARE.

WE WERE ABOUT TO SEND OUT THE SEARCH PARTIES.



SERIOUSLY!

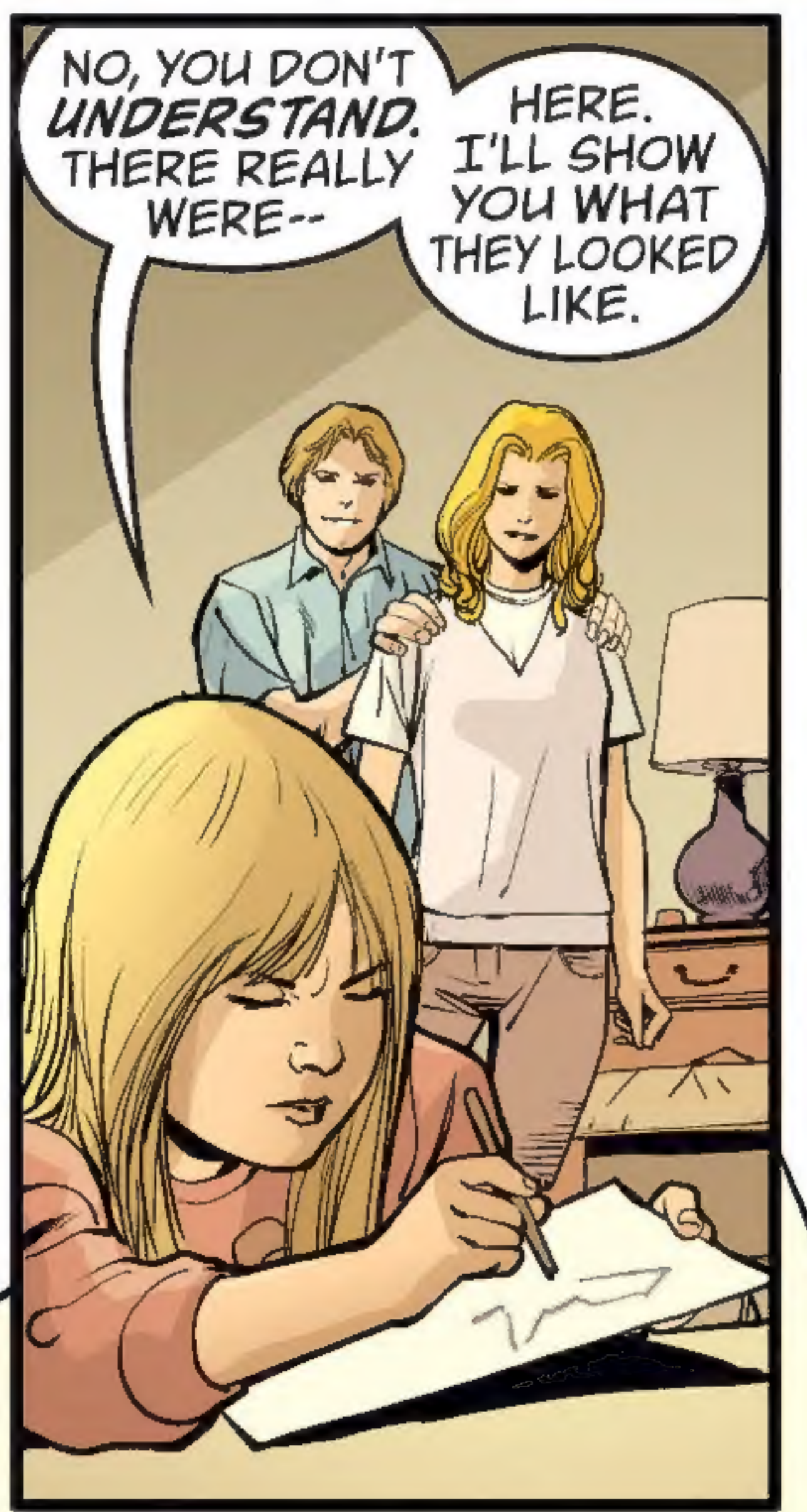
GIANT RAT MONSTERS!



EXCELLENT!

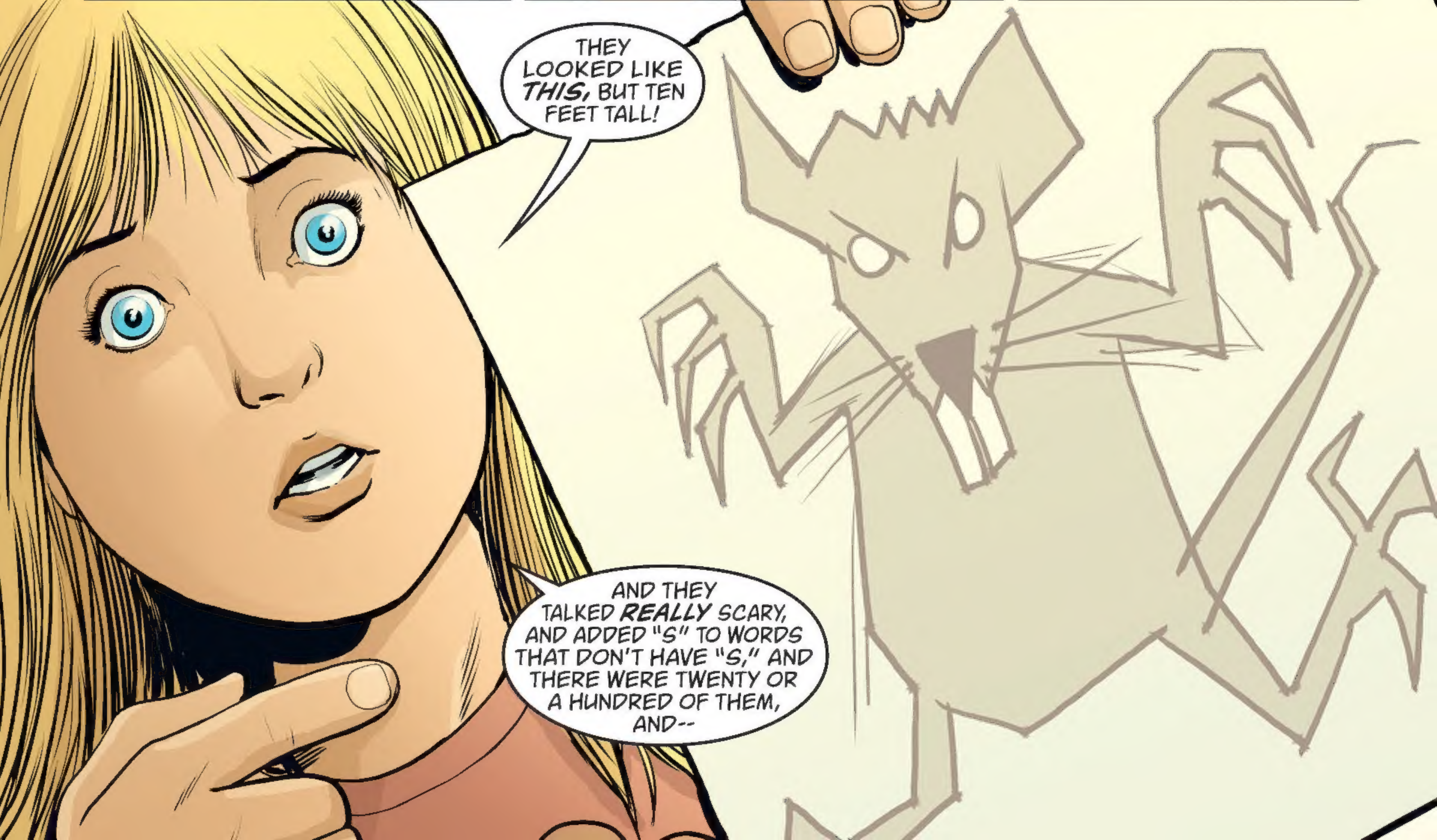
DID THEY TORTURE YOU?

ROAST YOU OVER A FIRE?



NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THERE REALLY WERE--

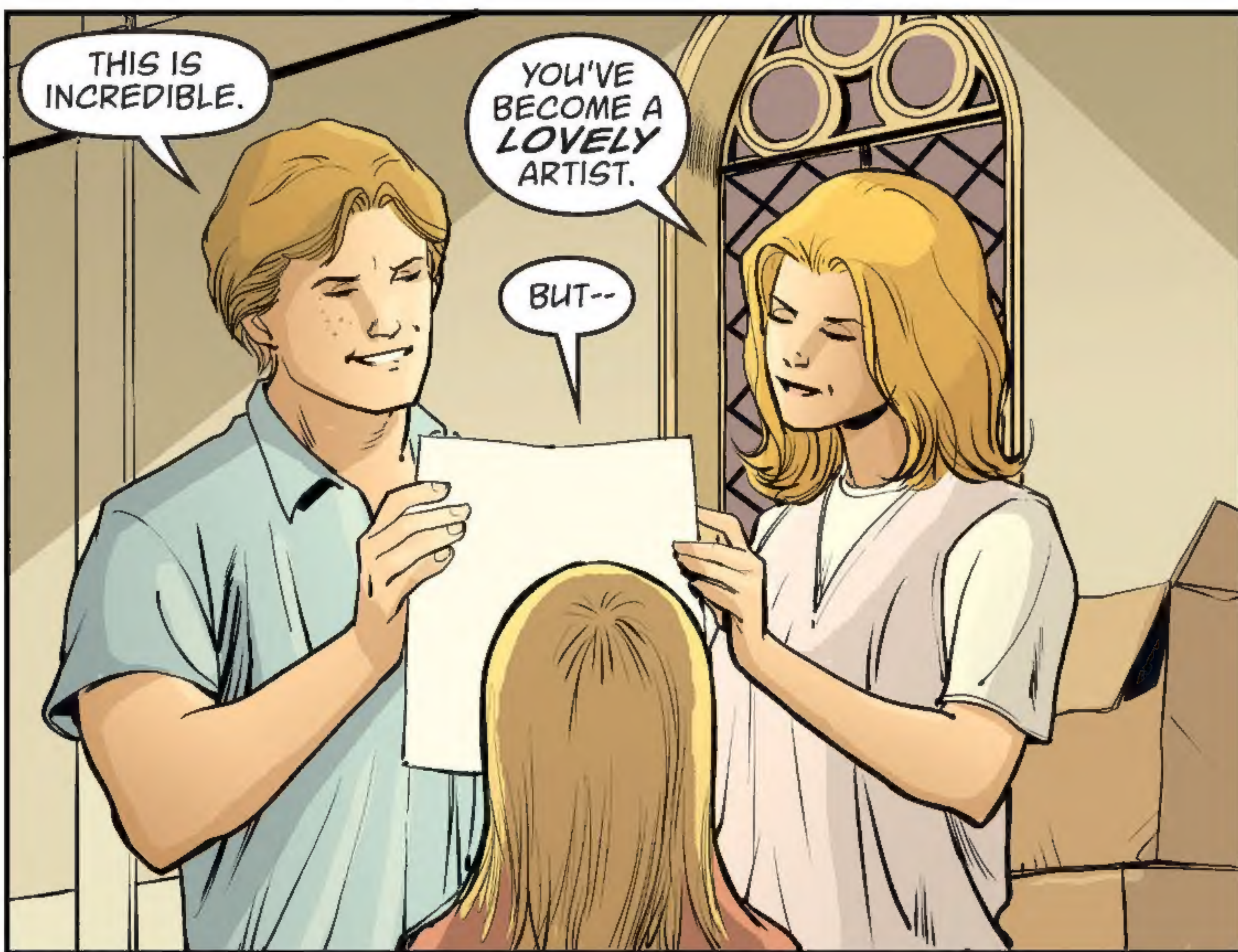
HERE. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.



THEY LOOKED LIKE THIS, BUT TEN FEET TALL!

AND THEY TALKED REALLY SCARY, AND ADDED "S" TO WORDS THAT DON'T HAVE "S," AND THERE WERE TWENTY OR A HUNDRED OF THEM, AND--





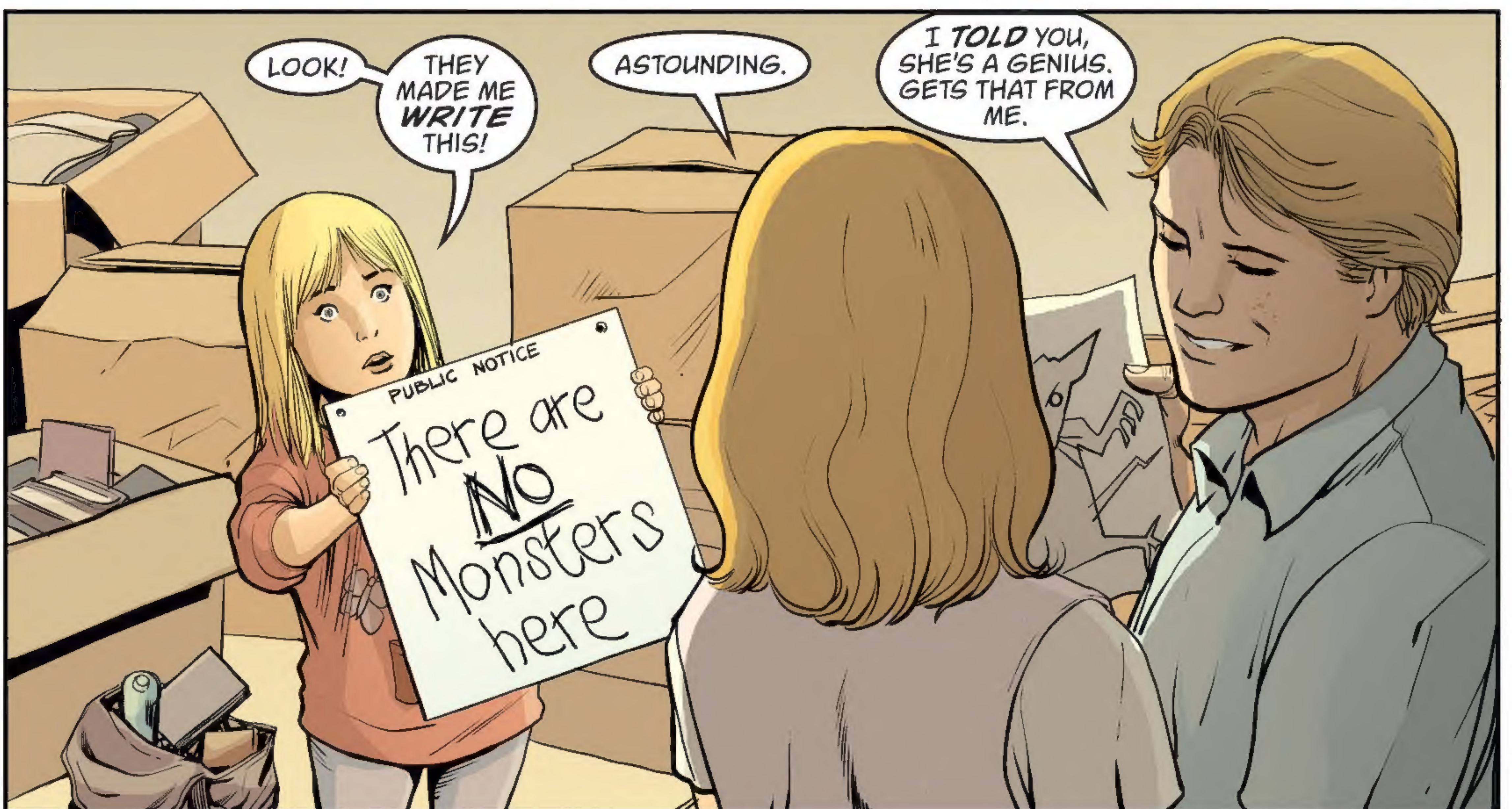
THIS IS INCREDIBLE.

YOU'VE BECOME A LOVELY ARTIST.

BUT--



WAIT! I CAN PROVE IT!

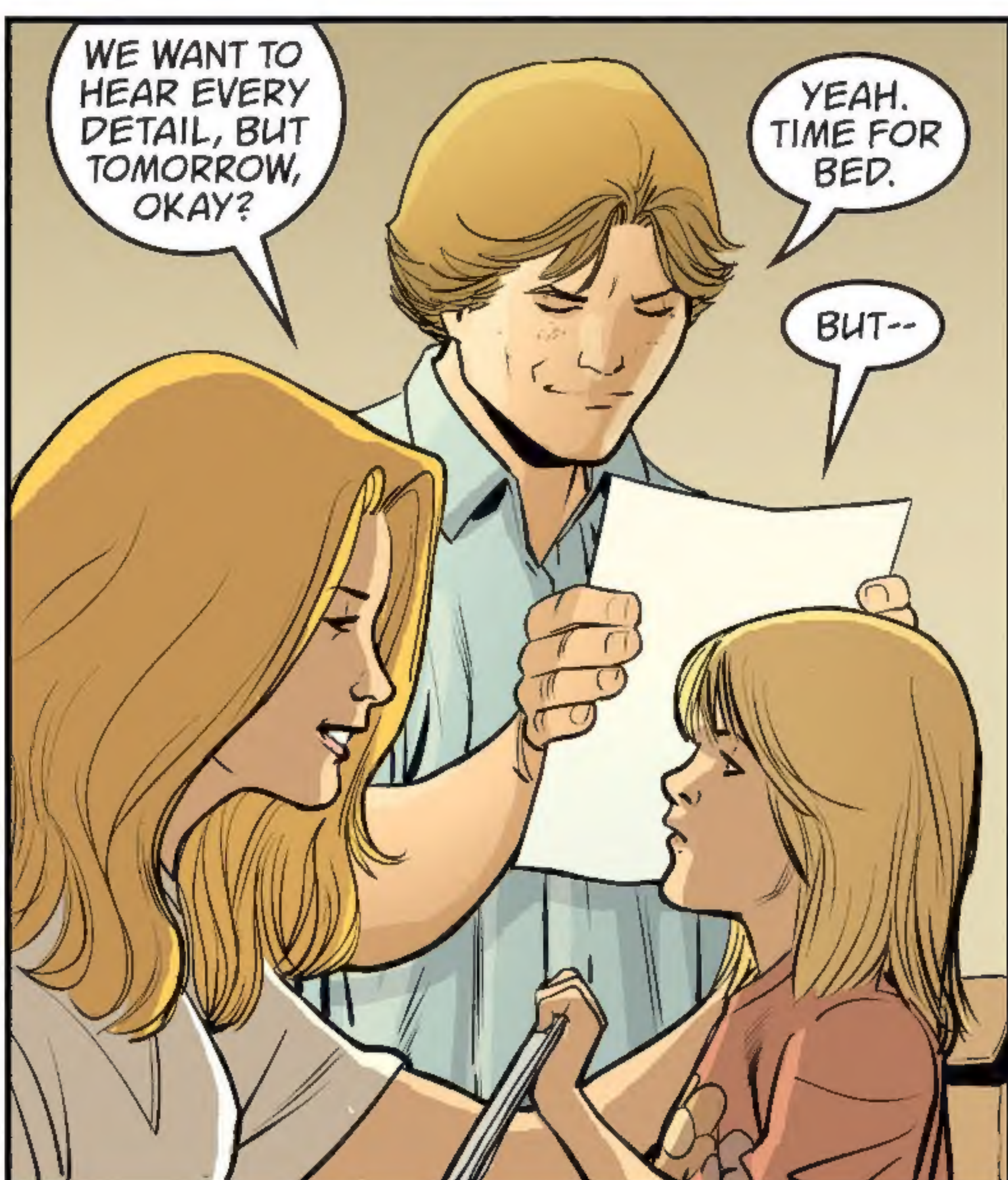


LOOK!

THEY MADE ME WRITE THIS!

ASTOUNDING.

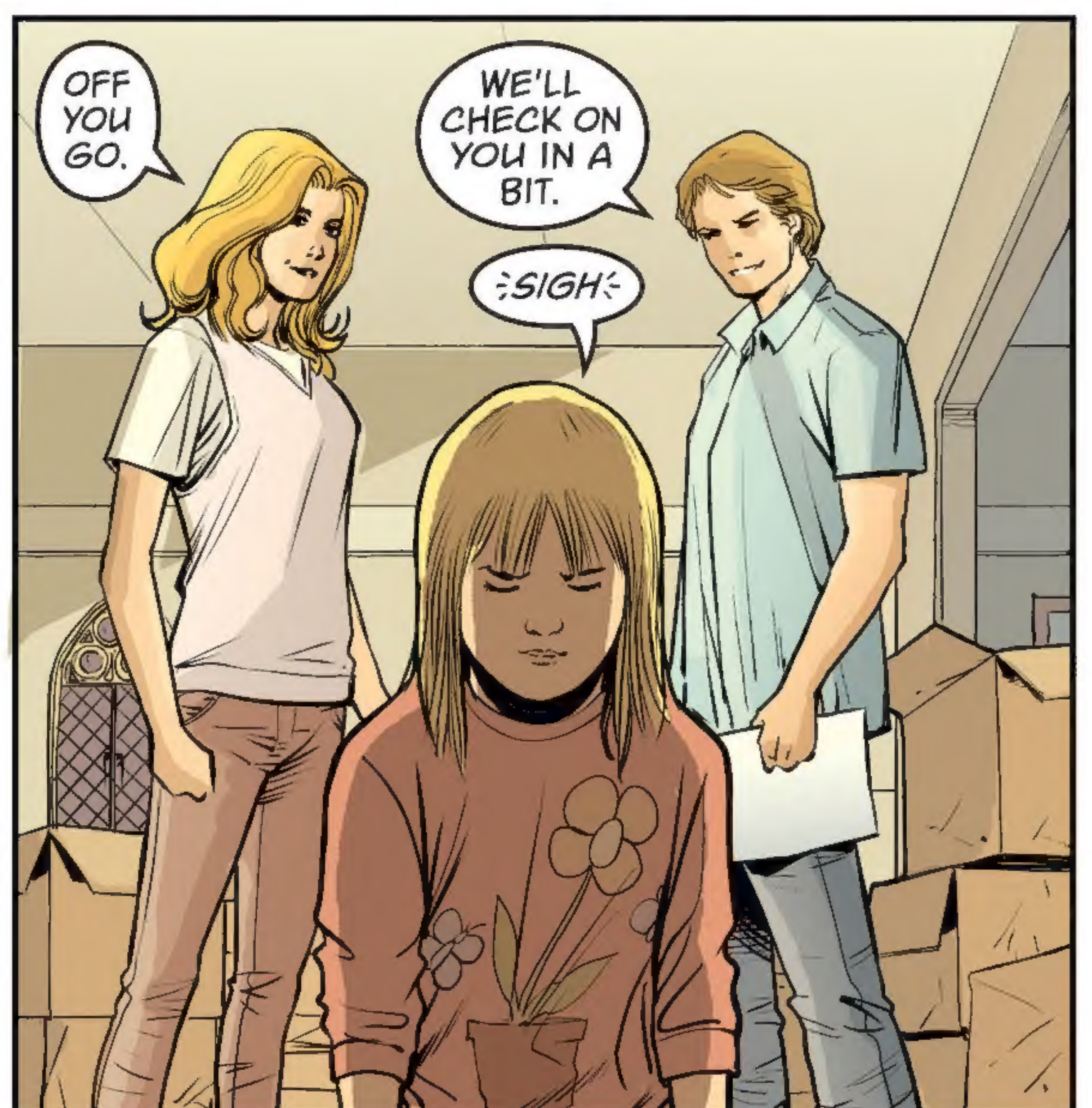
I TOLD YOU, SHE'S A GENIUS. GETS THAT FROM ME.



WE WANT TO HEAR EVERY DETAIL, BUT TOMORROW, OKAY?

YEAH. TIME FOR BED.

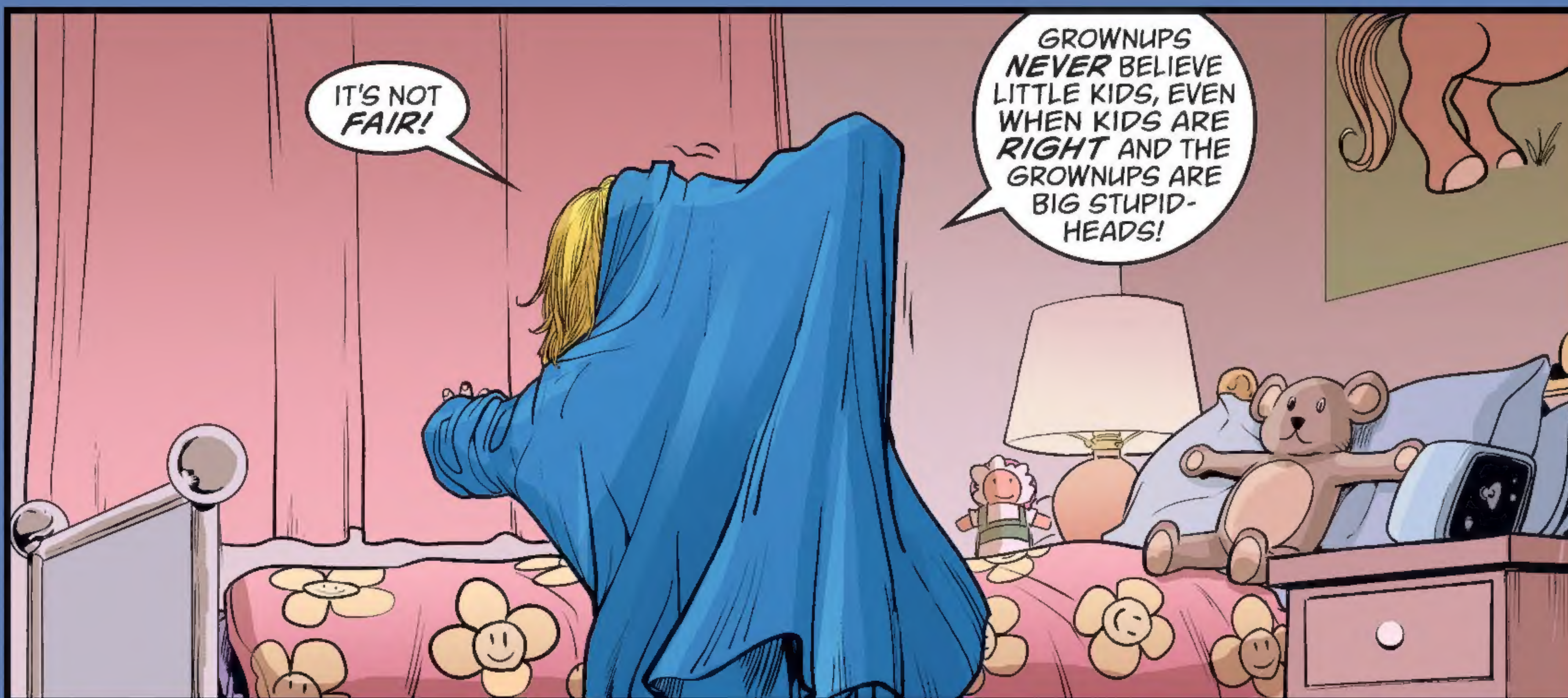
BUT--



OFF YOU GO.

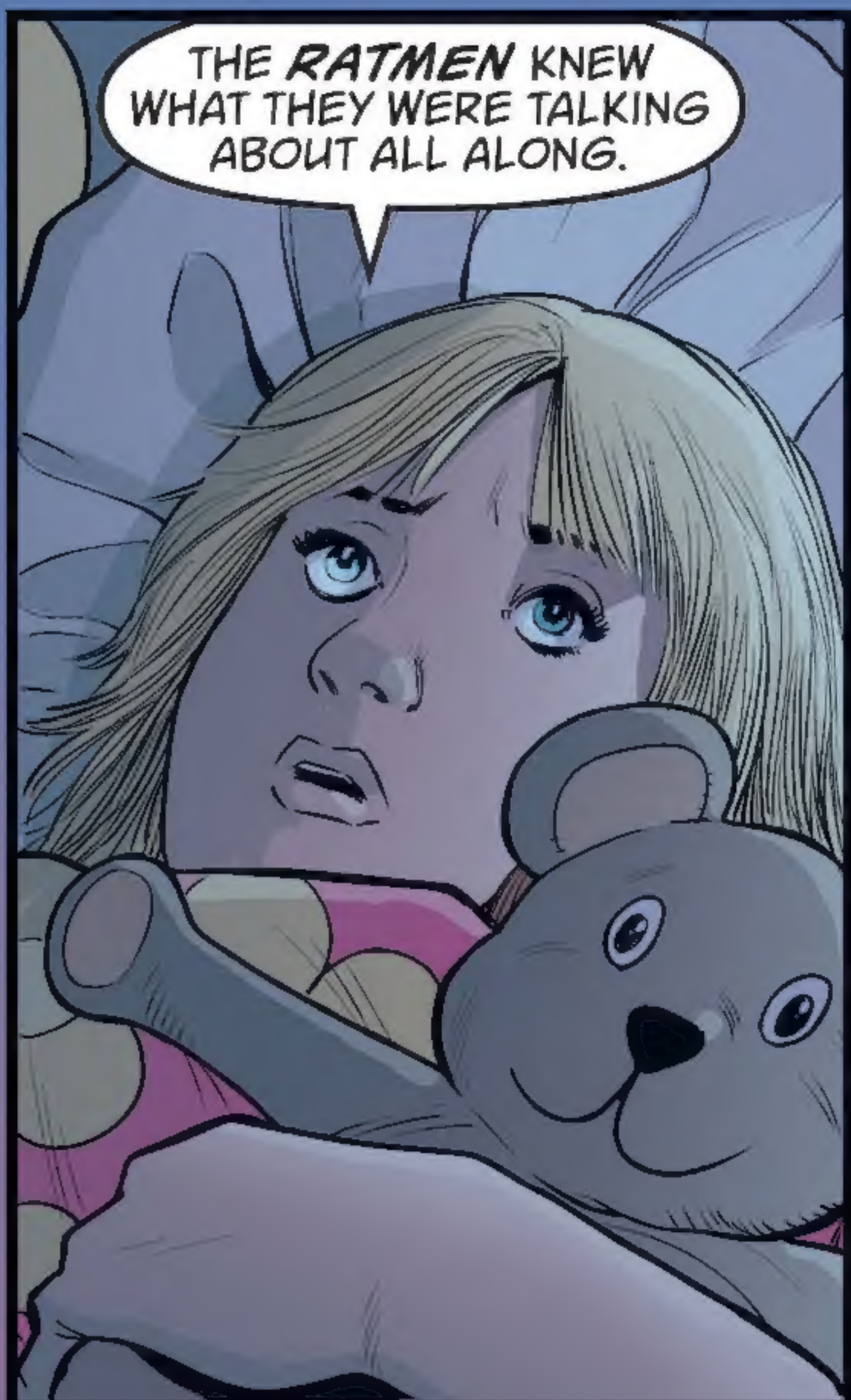
WE'LL CHECK ON YOU IN A BIT.

:(SIGH):

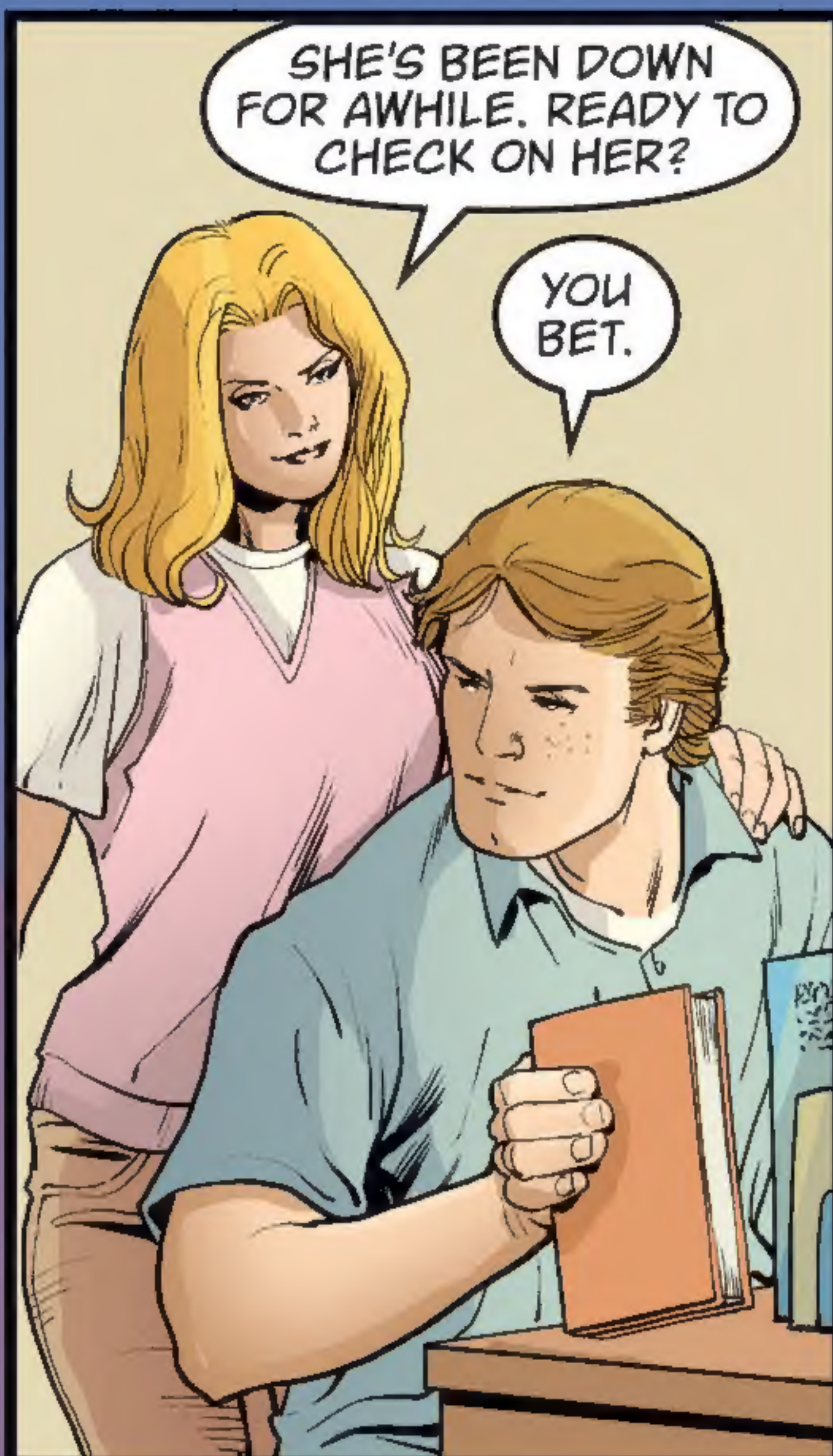


IT'S NOT FAIR!

GROWNUPS NEVER BELIEVE LITTLE KIDS, EVEN WHEN KIDS ARE RIGHT AND THE GROWNUPS ARE BIG STUPID-HEADS!



THE RATMEN KNEW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT ALL ALONG.



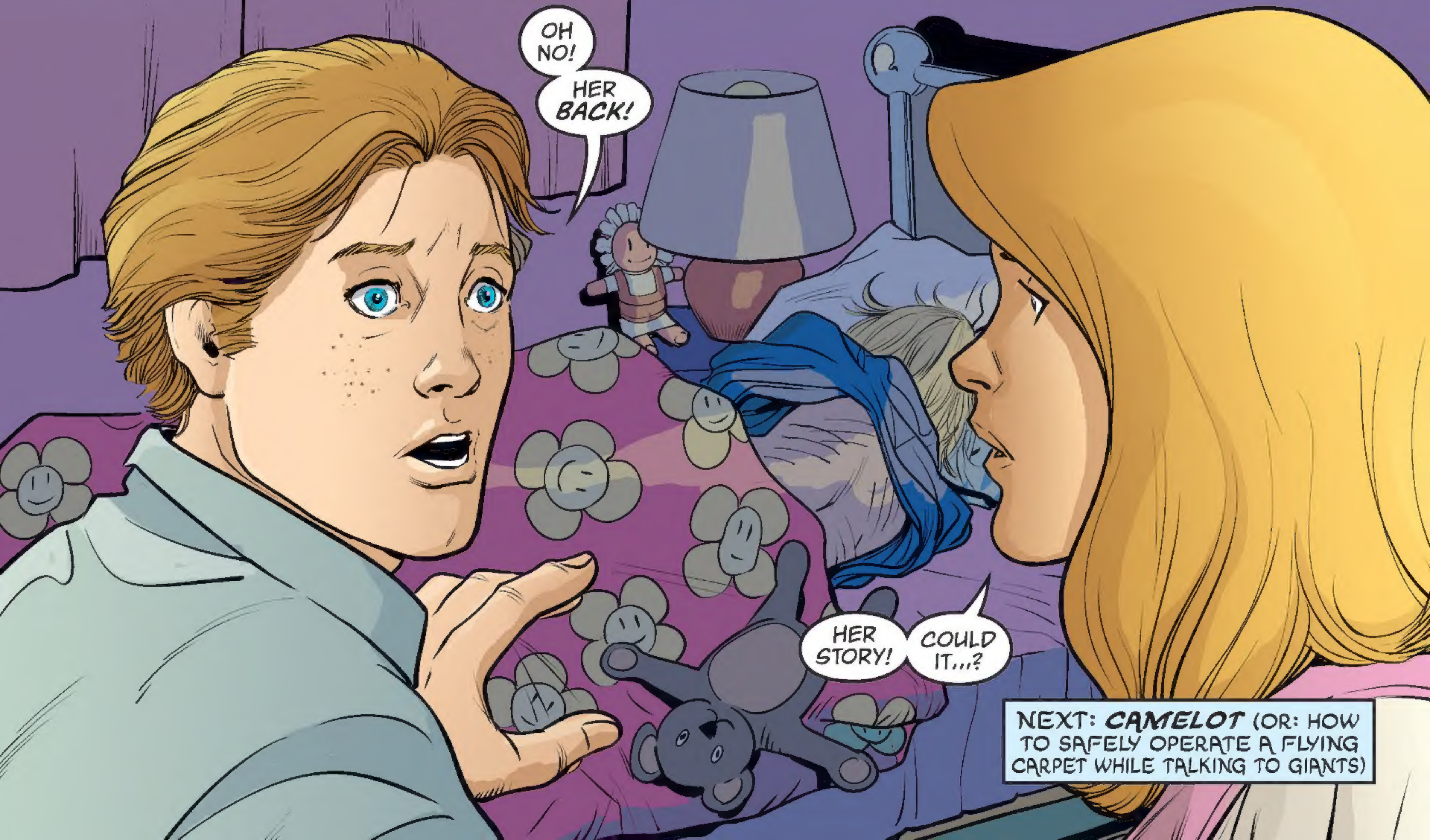
SHE'S BEEN DOWN FOR AWHILE. READY TO CHECK ON HER?

YOU BET.



ASLEEP?

YUP, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BEEN TOSSING AND TURNING.



OH NO!
HER BACK!

HER STORY!
COULD IT...?

NEXT: **CAMELOT** (OR: HOW TO SAFELY OPERATE A FLYING CARPET WHILE TALKING TO GIANTS)



NATHAN